

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 9, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

MR. FOSTER submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Thomas Johnson, praying for a change in existing laws so that all pensions for wounds or injuries received while in the line of duty in the military or naval service of the United States shall commence from the date of the disability, instead of the time of completing the testimony, respectfully report :

That, in the judgment of the committee, it is inexpedient to make the change asked for in the petition.

The committee would also report on the petition of the same Thomas Johnson, praying for arrears of pension :

That, in the opinion of the committee, the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted. The petitioner now receives a pension for wounds and disabilities received in the military service of the United States. Under present laws, his pension is drawn only from the time of completing his proof; he asks that he be enabled to draw it from the time of receiving his disability. Your committee have already expressed the opinion that it is inexpedient to make a change in our general law on this subject; and the committee see no reason for discriminating in favor of the petitioner. They are unanimously of opinion that the prayer of the petitioner should be denied.

negotiated a treaty with Paraguay, opening the rivers of the latter country to the commerce of the world; though the latter country, under the name of police regulations, has so embarrassed the rights of transit through her waters that it is now the cause of a threatening war-like demonstration by that empire against Paraguay.

The position of Paraguay and her policy are alike peculiar. Through her territories or upon her borders flow the most important, in a commercial view, of those tributaries, the Parana and Paraguay, while she claims the right of control, by possession, of the territory at the mouth of the Vermijo and Pilcomayo. Near her are Bolivia and the rich provinces of the Brazilian empire. Below her are most of the States of the Argentine confederation, Buenos Ayres, Uruguay, and Bonda Oriental. Through the rivers below she, early in eighteen hundred and forty-five, invited foreign commerce. Through the rivers above she has not yet, in point of fact, permitted it to extend.

The policy of her government is alike peculiar. While she has abandoned the system of isolation established by Señor Francia, and her present President, Lopez, invited foreign industry and commerce into the country, he seeks to almost monopolize their benefits to himself and family. And the laws of the country, called the decrees of the supreme government, are practically made and changed by his mere will. It is to this combination in its government of despotic power and trading monopoly, and the peculiar character of Lopez, that the difficulties existing between his country and Paraguay, as will be seen, can be easily traced.

The first of these difficulties, to which the President has called the attention of Congress, relates to the treaty which, once ratified by Lopez, was refused and rejected by him after its acceptance and ratification, with merely verbal, though necessary, amendments by the Senate. The treaty was formed in eighteen hundred and fifty-three. It was drafted at the same time and in the same terms, in effect, as treaties between the same power and Great Britain, France, and Sardinia, respectively. The treaties with those countries have been ratified and consular relations established, and with the former country, particularly, extensive business relations exist.

The treaty with this country, in the transcription, contained through inadvertence the expressions "the United States of North America" and "the North American Union," instead of the separate title of our country "The United States of America." And the period for the exchange of ratifications was found also to be too brief. This time was extended, and these requisite verbal changes made, in the treaty by the Senate of the United States, when the same was ratified by them. The treaty thus amended was sent to President Lopez. He first declined any communication upon the subject, because the note addressed to him requiring the appointment of a commissioner to exchange the ratifications was not in the Spanish language. Subsequently, Mr. Fitzpatrick was sent out as a special commissioner for this purpose. He explained the nature of the amendments and their necessity, and that they did not affect the meaning of the treaty in any respect. To this the minister of Lopez replied, not impugning in any respect the accuracy of Mr. Fitzpatrick's statement, and

claimed that as the President had once ratified the treaty as originally written, "it is not easy for his Excellency the President to submit to a new ratification," and closes the correspondence.

The previous correspondence had referred to two other subjects, which the President has also considered in his message, and into which your committee have inquired, and concur fully with the President in his views of this recommendation concerning the same. The first of these is the attack upon the *Water Witch*. The facts in regard to this matter are these: This government, through the Navy Department, in 1853, sent out the *Water Witch*, under the command of the then lieutenant, now commander, Thomas R. Page, to prosecute a hydrographic survey of the tributaries of La Plata, and to report upon the commercial condition of the countries upon those waters. The expedition was incidentally to make scientific researches and render assistance to the officers and citizens of our country.

It was received with peculiar favor by most of the people of those regions, and was so satisfactory to the government of this country that its renewal has been authorized by act of Congress, passed at the last session, and the steamer built for this purpose sailed sometime since. While the *Water Witch* was engaged in making this survey in the waters of the Parana, a boundary river between Corrientes, one of the provinces of the Argentine Confederation, and Paraguay, she was fired into by the fort of Stopera, on the Paraguayan side, hulled ten times, her steering apparatus shot away, and the man at the wheel killed. The *Water Witch* was at the time under the command of her first lieutenant, Jeffers, while Commander Page, with most of the officers and her best men, was engaged in exploring another of those rivers in a steamer furnished him by the American commissioner, hereafter mentioned. She, however, returned the fire; but in her disabled condition, at the mercy of the current, and with her small compliment of officers and men, was obliged to retire from the contest.

For this attack there is no justification or excuse. It was intended in the presumption of Lopez to intimidate and expel the exploring expedition from those regions, and has been the subject of boastful messages of Lopez to his so-called congress.

The only reasons ever given for the attack are that he had, some year after the *Water Witch* had been in those waters, published a decree forbidding foreign vessels-of-war to enter his rivers. English and French vessels-of-war now visit them. The place where the *Water Witch* was surveying was not under the jurisdiction of Paraguay. She was in waters over which the Argentine Confederation had at least concurrent jurisdiction, and in these she was engaged by authority of the published decrees of the government of that Confederation, as well as by the direction of our own government. She was, moreover, engaged simply in scientific investigations. With the President, we concur that this pretext cannot be admitted as any excuse for this attack, and that it was an outrage which calls for satisfaction from the Paraguayan government.

We have before stated that not only was the government of our country the first to engage in the survey and exploration of those rivers, but our citizens were the first to send their commercial enter-

prises into those waters. And these enterprises have been blasted and destroyed with as little of reason or right, as have been adduced by Lopez, in his rejection of our treaty and his attack upon the Water Witch.

As early as eighteen hundred and forty-five, the government issued decrees inviting foreigners to bring to his country the implements, means and processes of stimulating the industry of the country, and promising them the same privilege extended to inventors.

Under these special encouragements, and relying upon the protection of that government while engaged in lawful enterprise, a number of American merchants sent three steamers, with a large variety of the implements of American industry, to that country, and employed there more than twenty Americans in putting them in operation. They purchased lands and rented buildings with the consent of government, established cigar factories, and the first saw-mill erected east of the Andes and south of the equator; built wharves, and commenced the steam navigation of those waters. They employed large numbers of the people of the country, teaching them the processes of manufactures. But this success being for their benefit, and for the benefit of his people, but very indirectly enhanced the wealth of Lopez. It was not in accordance with the spirit of his monopolies, though he traded with the company to some extent. He first endeavored to induce the trained employés of the country to leave their service and enter into his own. Failing in this, he published the most arbitrary decrees; among others, forbidding foreigners to meet, except for purposes of society or innocent diversion; thus, of course, putting a stop to business. Also forbidding foreigners to make contracts with peons, or servants, except upon terms notified to, and accepted by, the government—that is, himself.

He also induced the people of the city, who, until the company excited his jealousy and displeasure, had treated the Americans with that grateful kindness which was natural towards honest and well-paying employés and benefactors, to change that conduct.

The Americans were exposed to the greatest contumacy, insult, and assaults in the streets and in their houses, which were the more incessant when under the universal protection of the police.

When their enterprise was thus broken up, and themselves compelled to leave the country, Lopez refused them passports and permits for their embarkation, unless they would give up the title of their property, and not without the interposition of Commander Page would he withdraw his claim and allow them the possibility of escape to their own country.

These events occurred some five years since. Since that time, in a single year, 1854, one hundred and sixty vessels arrived at Ascencion, and Lopez is carrying on a large and increasing commerce with England; and upon some eight steamers built in England, or by English mechanics in Paraguay, and operated by English engineers, not an American flag or an American citizen, with a single exception, has been seen in Paraguay within those four years, nor, of course, in the waters of Bolivia; and, says our minister to Bolivia, "While our flag is shut out from the Paraguay and its tributaries, even from pur-

poses of explorations, by the assumptions and policy of the government of Paraguay, others are securing privileges which will operate to its exclusion for years to come."

While the conduct which we have detailed would, coming from any civilized power, be a cause of war, the feebleness of this power should not protect it from necessary measures to secure just satisfaction to the national honor and to the rights of our citizens. No necessity for the use of force will, in the opinion of the committee, ever exist; but a willingness and authority for its use must be, and then without Lopez will permit the expedition to proceed unmolested in its explorations, and our citizens to prosecute their commercial enterprises through the waters of his rivers and adjoining countries.

We therefore recommend, following precedents in our national legislation, the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the purpose of adjusting the differences between the United States and the republic of Paraguay, in connexion with the attack on the United States steamer *Water Witch*, and with other matters referred to in the annual message of the President, he be, and is hereby, authorized to adopt such measures and use such force as in his judgment may be necessary and advisable, in the event of a refusal of just satisfaction by the government of Paraguay.

Report of the exploration and survey of the river "La Plata" and tributaries, by Thomas J. Page, commanding United States steamer Water Witch, to the Secretary of the Navy, 1856.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 4, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to present to the department the accompanying synoptical report on the late "exploration and survey of the river La Plata and its tributaries."

To do justice to a subject so fruitful, to present clearly and comprehensively the present state and future prospects of those countries, into and through which the operations of the expedition extended—their resources, physically and commercially, to exhibit the extent to which river navigation may be carried beyond its previously supposed limit, illustrated by accurately executed charts, and to contribute to the extension of geographical knowledge in determining the positions of regions of our own continent, whose places on our maps are no less in error than we, in ignorance of both country and people, would necessarily require a greater length of time than that elapsed since the return of the *Water Witch* to the United States; three-fourths of which have been occupied in the settlement of purser's accounts—a duty than which none can be more embarrassing, when combined with those of an expedition such as that on which the *Water Witch* was sent.

The department is fully aware of the circumstances precluding the possibility of accompanying this sketch of a report with a reduced map or chart. This deficiency I hope to supply when I may be permitted to present a more detailed account of our operations.

The department is also aware that a delay of several months attended the beginning of the work, after the arrival of the *Water Witch* at Buenos Ayres—the initial point of operations—her services having been represented as indispensable to the success of important diplomatic negotiations entered into by our representatives near the governments of Brazil and the Argentine Confederation; and that embarrassment of a grave character, involving the interposition of the *Water Witch* as a man-of-war in the protection of American citizens, circumscribed the action of the expedition to some extent, thereby excluding it from the exploration of the tributaries of the Paraguay and of that portion of the Parana which lies above Corrientes.

Sufficient has been accomplished, notwithstanding these obstacles, to induce the sanguine hope that through the humble means of this expedition—sent abroad solely under the authority of the department—there may result to this and those countries, an important commerce, and to science valuable contributions in both geography and natural history.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS J. PAGE,
Commander.

Hon. J. C. DOBBIN,
Secretary of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, *August 4, 1856.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit to the department the following report, setting forth the progress and extent of exploration accomplished by the United States steamer *Water Witch*, during her recent cruise, under instructions from the honorable the Secretary of the Navy, to "survey and explore the river La Plata and its tributaries." In addition to which instructions, I was accredited by the President, Mr. Fillmore, jointly with our ministers near the governments of Brazil and the Argentine Confederation, or individually, to make a treaty of commerce and navigation with the republic of Paraguay. When I arrived at Buenos Ayres, I was informed by our minister, Mr. Pendleton, that he had some months previously accepted the invitation of Sir Charles Hotham, the British minister, to accompany him to Paraguay, and at the same time, with the ministers of France and Sardinia, had concluded a treaty with the President of that republic.

These instructions constituted my guide in the prosecution of the work assigned me, and I hope it will be seen that they have been carried out in the fullest extent of which the means at my disposal, and the circumstances attending the work, would admit. The department having been informed, from time to time, of the progress of the expedition, it may not be advisable to withhold this preliminary report, for the length of time which a more detailed account would render necessary. This can be made at some subsequent period, when the results of the work may be more clearly and minutely set forth, and the good deducible therefrom more satisfactorily demonstrated.

The *Water Witch*, a steamer of about four hundred tons burden, with a draught of nine feet, sailed from Norfolk, on the 8th of February, 1853. Although not adapted in all respects for the duty assigned her, she nevertheless was better suited to it than any other vessel at that time available; and, with an enlightened zeal for the promotion of commerce and the advancement of science, the department availed itself of the limited means thus at its disposal, to make to those objects a contribution, which I trust will be found eminently worthy of its efforts and in fulfillment of its anticipations. The seal to the new waters which the *Water Witch* was destined to explore, and which had remained closed for so many years to navigation, under the peculiar government of Buenos Ayres, was broken by the liberal and enlightened policy of General Justo J. Urquiza, provisional director of the Argentine Confederation, and by him the rivers were declared "open" to commerce. The government of the United States promptly availed itself of this privilege, and has now the satisfaction of demonstrating to the world the navigability of some waters previously unknown, and of others to a far greater extent than had at any time previously been imagined.

On the arrival of the *Water Witch* at Rio de Janeiro, I took occasion to represent, through the United States legation, to the government of Brazil the object of the expedition, for the purpose of enlisting

in its behalf the favorable consideration of that government, knowing that it held territory on both banks of the river Paraguay, through which I hoped to be able to extend the exploration.

The following correspondence will show the result of my effort at that time. My letter was addressed to Mr. Ferdinand Coxe, secretary of legation, Mr. Schenck being temporarily absent.

UNITED STATES STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Rio de Janeiro, April 26, 1853.

SIR: The expedition on which the Water Witch has been ordered by the President of the United States, having purely for its object the advancement of commerce and promotion of science, objects interesting to all civilized nations, but more especially so to those on whose borders, or into whose territories its operations may extend, I wish, through the legation of the United States, to call the attention of the Brazilian government to this expedition, with the hope that through its enlightened policy it may be disposed to forward the work with which I am entrusted, whensoever its operations may border upon, or extend into the territory of Brazil.

Facilities might be afforded and difficulties removed by the simple act of approval and commendation on the part of Brazil, of which her frontier and inland posts could be notified in advance of the expedition.

You are too well aware of the good likely to result from the work we have in hand to require any argument from me. I therefore leave the matter in your hands, with the hope that your efforts to advance the aim and object I have in view may succeed to our entire satisfaction.

THOMAS J. PAGE,
Lieutenant Commanding.

Mr. FERDINAND COXE,
Secretary of Legation, Rio de Janeiro.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Rio de Janeiro, April, 26, 1853.

SIR: In the absence of Mr. Schenck, I have the honor to enclose to your excellency a copy of a letter just received from Lieutenant Thomas Page, commanding the United States steamer Water Witch, now in this port. This officer has been ordered by the President of the United States upon the highly interesting and important duty of exploring and surveying all the rivers running into the La Plata; and it is not doubted that the results of the expedition will be of the highest importance to the commercial and scientific world, and that Brazil, as bordering upon, and at some points entirely enclosing the rivers it is

proposed to ascend, will not be the nation least benefitted by the operations of the expedition.

Your excellency will perceive, from Lieutenant Page's letter, that he asks from the imperial government such assistance in the object he has in view as may be given, by orders of friendly coöperation, to the imperial officers and agents he may meet when his operations may border upon, or extend into the territory of Brazil.

Your excellency knows too well what these orders should be, and to whom they should be given, for me to do more than communicate Lieutenant Page's request, as I am confident that the enlightened views of your excellency will lead you to further the aim and object of the expedition by all the means in your excellency's power.

The Water Witch will leave here for Monte Video and Buenos Ayres on the 30th instant, and I will have much pleasure in forwarding any communication which your excellency may desire to send to those points; and I avail myself of the occasion to renew to your excellency the assurance of my high respect and distinguished consideration.

FERDINAND COXE,
Secretary of Legation.

To H. E. PAULINO JOSÉ SOARES DE SOUZA,
*Of the Council of H. M. the Emperor,
Minister and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.*

[Translation.]

FOREIGN OFFICE,
Rio de Janeiro, May 4, 1853.

I received, after some delay, the note which, in the absence of Mr. Schenck, was addressed to me by Mr. Ferdinand Coxe, secretary of legation, under date of the 26th of April last, enclosing a copy of a letter he had received from Lieut. Thomas J. Page, who having been charged with the duty of exploring the different rivers, affluents to "La Plata," asked from the imperial government all the assistance in its power, by means of orders and recommendations, for a friendly coöperation on the part of the respective authorities of the empire. In reply I have to say to Mr. Coxe, that the imperial government having opened to foreign commerce, in the river Paraguay, the port of Albuquerque, it makes no objection to Lieut. Page carrying his explorations to that point, and will send the necessary orders to the president of the province of Matto Grosso, and other imperial agents, that they may give to Lieut. Page all coöperation in their power; but the imperial government not having yet opened to foreign nations other ports above Albuquerque, and not having yet agreed as to the navigation of these interior rivers with the nations on their banks, (*Nações ribeirinhas*,) it cannot permit foreign vessels to enter them,

and thus establish an example and precedent which might be prejudicial to the empire, as the right to the navigation of those rivers has not been settled.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Coxe the assurance of my esteem and consideration.

PAULINO JOSÉ SOAREZ DE SOUZA.

Mr. FERDINAND COXE,

Secretary of Legation, &c.

This unlooked for opposition to the exploration of waters, so entirely unknown to the civilized world, was subsequently removed by the imperial government, and permission granted the Water Witch to explore such tributaries of the Paraguay river as were under the jurisdiction of Brazil.

The success of this application should be attributed to the zeal and ability with which it was advocated by our minister, Mr. Schenck, and Mr. Trusdale; notwithstanding the confident belief I entertained—judging from the profound learning of his imperial majesty, and his devotion to the sciences—that all opposition would eventually be removed.

Political questions of old date, relative to territorial limits, had made the two governments of Brazil and Paraguay jealous of their respective rights to the navigation of the Paraguay river. The latter government claimed exclusive jurisdiction, and asserted the right to prohibit the ascent of the Paraguay above Asuncion, the capital, to all nations; while the former claimed a way by water to her interior province, “Matto Grosso.” The navigation of the river was denied to Brazil with the hope of forcing his imperial majesty to terms on the question of limits. Angry discussions on these points, for many years, had finally terminated in the threatening spectacle of a formidable Brazilian squadron arrested in its ascent of the Paraguay by a battery of one hundred guns, erected on the banks of that river. The two nations, brought thus in juxta position at the cannon’s mouth, concluded it the more prudent plan to keep the ammunition in the magazines, and settle their differences with the pen instead of the sword. Negotiations were consequently resumed, and resulted (as we learn since leaving the waters of “La Plata”) in the adjustment of the question of limits, and the opening of the Paraguay to the Brazilian flag.

The interesting details involved in these matters cannot be embraced in this circumscribed report.

On the arrival of the Water Witch at Buenos Ayres, the point in the river La Plata where the survey and exploration were begun, and in consequence of the very probable necessity for a place of refuge for Americans—arising from the impending attack upon the city from the besieging force under General Urquiza—I received the following letter from our chargé d’affaires, Mr. Pendleton, to which I felt every obligation to yield a willing assent:

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Buenos Ayres, July 3, 1853.

MY DEAR SIR : I am aware of your great anxiety to proceed up the river, in pursuance of the objects of the expedition under your command, and it is therefore with very great reluctance that I take leave to suggest to you that it is very desirable you should remain a few days longer in the port of Buenos Ayres.

Events of importance and of a decisive character in respect to the condition of this city and province are, in my opinion, at hand.

No American man-of-war is in the river ; Captain Downing, with the Jamestown, having suddenly, and without any correspondence or consultation with me on the subject, cleared out, as I have informally learned, to proceed to Rio de Janeiro, for the alleged purpose of having his ship caulked.

I would not make this request but for the strongest conviction on my own part that the events referred to are almost certain, and for the further fact that I am urged to do so by many American citizens resident in Buenos Ayres, and that I have also the concurrence of Mr. Schenck, who desires me to say so to you.

JOHN PENDLETON.

Captain THOMAS K. PAGE,
Commanding U. S. Steamer Water Witch.

Happily the necessity for the presence of the Water Witch did not actually arise ; but that request was followed by another, which caused a yet longer detention before Buenos Ayres, to which it did not become me to turn a deaf ear. The following letter shows the circumstances attending the request, and the importance attached to the participation of the Water Witch in the arrangements made by the foreign representatives :

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Buenos Ayres, July 10, 1853.

SIR : We are engaged in some confidential negotiations at present, which are likely to result in an accommodation of the difficulties existing at Buenos Ayres between the parties to the civil war. There is no absolute certainty as to the event, but there is a sufficient probability of success to justify us in requesting that you will not leave the place for a few days. We make this request because it is a part of the present plan that the foreign men-of-war in port may convey the provisional director and his escort to the neighboring port of Gualaguaychu.

As important objects connected with our duties here are likely to be attained more readily by the participation of the United States flag in this transaction, we think it very important you should remain, there being no other United States vessel in port.

ROBERT C. SCHENCK,
JOHN PENDLETON.

Captain THOMAS PAGE,
United States Steamer Water Witch.

The negotiations alluded to terminating in an accommodation of the difficulties and in an abandonment of the siege by the forces of the Argentine Confederation under the command of General Urquiza—in conformity to the request of our minister—the provisional director, together with his suite and military escort, was received on board the *Water Witch* and transported to the province of Entre Rios.

In the adjustment of these grave difficulties between the Argentine Confederation on the one side and Buenos Ayres on the other, the agency of our representatives, in co-operation with those of England and France, was of a character highly influential; and in the official communication of the participation of the *Water Witch* in the above transaction, made by Mr. Schenck to the State Department, her services were characterized on this and subsequent occasions as very material to the success of their negotiations with the Argentine government. Neither were they of less importance in having laid the foundation of good relations, which were always manifested in the facilities offered our work, whensoever we were operating within the jurisdiction of the confederation.

The appreciation of the expedition by the President (Urquiza) may be judged of by the following letter, sent to me after its objects had been made known to him:

[Translation.]

“Long live the Argentine Confederation.

“The Provisional Director of the Argentine Confederation.

“The American steamer-of-war *Water Witch*, from the United States of North America, having arrived in the river La Plata, and her captain, Thomas J. Page, having expressed his desire to navigate the rivers of the Argentine Confederation, for scientific purposes, I enjoin and command the authorities of the riverine provinces that they will not present any impediment to his exploration, but afford him all the assistance he may need or require.

“JUSTO J. URQUIZA.

“SAN JOSÉ DE FLORES, *May* 27, 1853.”

The principal affluents of the river La Plata—the Parana and Uruguay, with their tributaries—constituted the field of our operations; a field which, although vast in extent and partially closed to exploration, will, I trust, be found not to have been labored in vain. Hidden and unknown, as have been for ages past the rich resources of those countries, watered by the above rivers, a condition not to be wondered at when we take into consideration the rule to which they have been subjected, it is not anticipating too much when we look for an abundant harvest as the result of our labors; a harvest not only of material value to the commercial community, but of some interest to the scientific. To demonstrate this position, which I assume for the late exploration of the tributaries of La Plata, does not lie within the limits of this report. It is a task which I hope to undertake and execute, though plainly and simply, in such manner as will exhibit the

field that is open to commercial enterprise, to the mechanical arts, to agriculture, and to scientific pursuits in geography and natural history.

At the distance of a few miles below the confluence of the Parana and Uruguay, and where they form the river La Plata, is the island "Martin Garcia," whose commanding position is such as to have made it the subject-matter of treaty stipulations, by which its occupation or possession should, under no circumstances, authorize or give the power of obstructing the free navigation of those rivers. The importance of its position, however, has been much diminished by the discovery, in the late work of the *Water Witch*, of a channel heretofore unknown, whose depth of water is two feet greater than that of the old channel, and whose course forms the common boundary between two foreign states, Buenos Ayres and the Banda Oriental; thus depriving this island not only of its importance as a military station, but of the political character it has hitherto maintained, of holding the command of the channel of the Uruguay, and, consequently, of the Parana also. This may be assumed as the initial point of the exploration and survey; and, as the Parana river presented the more extended and important field of operation, the labors of the expedition were first directed to that channel.

In explaining the manner in which the work was conducted, the department will perceive that the best means of which it admitted were resorted to for the attainment of accuracy; and these were sufficient for the accomplishment of the object in view—the construction of charts from a "running survey," based upon, and checked by, daily astronomical observations.

The chronometers, five in number, had been selected by the superintendent of the "Naval Observatory" because of their excellence, and it is gratifying to know that they sustained this character throughout our work as well as could have been anticipated. Their errors and rates were well determined previously to entering upon the work, in conducting which observations of the sun and stars were daily made, whensoever the weather would permit, for the determining of latitude, longitude, and variation. The distances between the points of observation were arrived at by reference to a uniform number of revolutions of the engine, which, from experience, was ascertained to be equal to a close approximation to a certain distance. Whatsoever erroneous estimate may thus have been made, it could not extend beyond the point of observation, so that there was always a check upon any error of judgment or irregularity in the speed of the steamer. There were, at all times, when the steamer was under way, two officers at work, exclusive of myself; one with the chart before him, projecting the course and distance, the width and depth of the river, with the topography on either bank; while the other recorded in the note book the same, together with all such remarks as were calculated to represent more clearly any peculiar characteristic. Soundings were taken at intervals of five minutes, when in deep water, but when in shoal water, as often as they could be had. The astronomical observations and their reductions were, at different periods of the work, conducted by Acting Masters Welch, Powell, Murdaugh, and Henry,

to whom, in connexion with Lieutenant Jeffers, who joined the expedition after Mr. Welsh's detachment, because of ill health, the success of our work is mainly due, as having "borne the burden and heat of the day."

The Parana discharges its immense volume of water into "La Plata," by the confluence of three of its principal branches with the Uruguay, and by a number of other branches of less importance communicating directly with "La Plata," thus forming a delta of vast extent. The various branches susceptible of navigation were explored and surveyed.

The river was ascended through its main channel, in the *Water Witch*, up to the confluence of the Paraguay, about 800 miles from Buenos Ayres, when this latter river was ascended above that point about 900 miles up to a Brazilian military post called "Corumba;" beyond which the expedition, at this time, was prohibited from proceeding by the Brazilian government, for the reasons hereinbefore indicated.

The point of junction of these two rivers is about twenty-two miles above Corrientes, the principal town of the province of that name. Subsequently to the period now alluded to, the further exploration of the Parana—that portion of it yet unknown—was attempted; but the progress of the steamer was arrested by an assumption of unwarrantable exclusive jurisdiction by the government of Paraguay over waters where the right was shared and the jurisdiction concurrent with the Argentine Confederation. The right to explore the river throughout the extent of the jurisdiction of the Argentine Confederation was vested in the *Water Witch* by an injunction from the provisional director, General Urquiza, on its citizens to afford the expedition every facility, aid and assistance; and on the other hand, there rested on the *Water Witch* the obligation to carry out the grant that had been made by this liberal and enlightened act.

The progress of the vessel, however, in her ascent of the river, while carrying out the instructions of the department, and while acting not only by the permission but by the expressed desire of the Argentine Confederation, was arrested by the commission of an outrage on the part of the Paraguay government, which I sought in vain to avenge. The means were ample and available; the mode and manner of using them clearly demonstrated; the authority full and unquestioned, and resting in the hands of one whose rank and position in the command of a squadron should be a sufficient guarantee that the honor of his country's flag is in safe keeping when entrusted to him. The department having been fully advised of all the circumstances connected with this transaction, I abstain from giving, in this report, a detailed statement of what I must ever consider a wrong, an outrage unavenged. It becomes me to state, however, in this place, that the unwarrantable course pursued towards the *Water Witch* was induced by the exasperated state of feeling on the part of President Lopez, of Paraguay, arising from the fact that, in the discharge, not only of the obligation imposed upon me by instructions, but by my duty as an officer, I had removed, by means of the *Water Witch*, from under his oppressive rule a number of American citizens, who,

located in that country for the transaction of commercial and other business, and having come under the ban of his displeasure, were treated in a manner not to be tolerated.

The time has elapsed when the indignity offered the flag should have been avenged, but I trust it has not passed when the government of Paraguay shall be made responsible for the pecuniary losses sustained by those American citizens, and caused by an exercise of the most tyrannical power.

In ascending the river Parana up to the confluence of the Paraguay, the territory on both sides belongs to the Argentine Confederation, with the exception of a portion of the right bank—about 145 miles in extent—which pertains to the State of Buenos Ayres. The provinces bordering the river are, Entre Rios and Corrientes on the left, and Santa Fé on the right bank; the northern portion of this latter province extending into “El Gran Chaco”—the home, and almost boundless domain of various tribes of inhospitable Indians. This is an extent of country embracing not less than 200,000 square miles; and notwithstanding it has been partitioned out by imaginary limits among the different states surrounding it—the Argentine Confederation, Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil—the Indian yet roams that vast domain in undisturbed possession. He sallies forth at times to rob the white man, and when pursued finds refuge in the immensity of this region, which he calls his own. The extent of pampa country—similar to our prairie—is well watered by streams whose navigability, in part, has been proved, and whose banks are well studded with timber and wood for fuel. The fertility of the soil is unsurpassed, and the grass, in luxuriance unequalled, affords rich pasture for innumerable herds of cattle, horses, sheep, &c.

On the opposite bank, in the provinces of Entre Rios and Corrientes, we find a sparse, but hospitable population, inhabiting a country rich in natural resources—save those of minerals—soil fertile, and susceptible of producing in great abundance the various grain crops, cotton, tobacco, and every variety of vegetable. From the interior of these provinces small rivers empty into the Parana, whose navigability, at certain seasons of the year, would afford the medium of easy transportation to market for all the products of the country.

The city of Parana, the seat of government, is one of the most important towns of Entre Rios, although not the most populous. In Santa Fé, the province immediately opposite, the chief towns are Santa Fé and Rosario—the latter being the principal port of entry of the confederation. The population of this place has increased, within the past three years, in a ratio truly surprising, showing the effect of confidence in the recently established popular form of government.

Added to this may be mentioned, as an active stimulus to this influx of population into Rosario, the anticipated construction of the recently projected railroad from that place to Cordova. The route has been surveyed by one of our own countrymen, Mr. Allen Campbell, whose reputation in South America as an engineer is of the highest order, and whose favorable decision as to its practicability is quite sufficient to ensure the connecting of the western with the eastern part of the confederation by this iron bond.

In the prosecution of this survey it became necessary for Mr. Campbell to make a very thorough exploration of the river "Tercero," which, under the name of Carcaraña, empties into the Parana, a short distance north of Rosario. To him I am indebted for information relative to this river of such a character as to preclude the necessity, on our part, of a closer examination than we had already made.

He says, "The Tercero is not navigable in its natural state, neither is it susceptible of being made so by artificial means, at least for any practical or useful purpose."

The construction of this road between Rosario and Cordova, together with the navigation of the river Salado, will contribute vastly to the commercial prosperity of the confederation, and not less to the perpetuity of its political existence.

There are many points in which the Parana and Paraguay assimilate to our western waters. Their course is from north to south. They have their periodical rise and fall, caused not by the melting of snow and ice, which influence the latter, but by the rainy and dry seasons of the tropical region of Brazil, in which they take their rise. The average rise of the Parana is 12 feet, which begins in December, reaches its maximum in February and March, and will be found at its lowest state in August and September. In the month of October there is a partial rise of six feet, called the "*repunta*," which continues not longer than one month, when it subsides again to its low state.

The Water Witch, with a draught varying from 8 to 9 feet, ascended the river during the month of September, when it was at its lowest state, and experienced no difficulty from the want of a sufficient depth of water. Its channel is subject to changes during the season of increase. This, however, occasions no difficulty in the navigation of the river, because the vigilant pilot soon learns, from experience in river navigation, to discern, by inspection, the course of the main channel. The velocity of the current averages $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles the hour. Owing to the almost numberless islands with which this river is studded, some of them many miles in extent, its width, in parts, from mainland to mainland, is as much as 15 miles; but the width of the river proper varies from one-fourth to one mile. Its banks, at the distance of 300 miles from its mouth, towards its source, are well covered with the best quality of wood for steamers; and they maintain this character throughout. Many of the islands are sufficiently elevated to escape inundation, and offer an inexhaustibly fertile soil for cultivation, especially in rice.

On entering the Paraguay river, at the point spoken of, we have Paraguay on the left bank, and still "El Gran Chaco" on the right. This river differs from the Parana in several particulars. Its period of rising is generally the reverse; it contains but few islands; is confined between narrow limits; is more easy of navigation, because less obstructed by shoals; and the course of its channel is less variable; its width from one-eighth to three-fourths of a mile; its velocity two miles per hour; and its rise is from twelve to fifteen feet. In October it attains its maximum, and in February its minimum state. From its mouth to Asuncion, (the capital,) a distance of 250 miles, there were found no less than twenty feet of water, when the river had

fallen about two feet. This depth of water remained unchanged for the distance of several hundred miles above Asuncion, and the Water Witch had ascended the Paraguay seven hundred miles above this place ere she found less than twelve feet. At this time the river had fallen several feet.

The admirable adaptation of these rivers to steam navigation cannot but forcibly strike the most casual observer.

There are no obstructions from fallen trees, neither shoals nor rocks, to endanger navigation. At suitable points—in fact at every point, in Paraguay particularly—an abundance of the best wood may be procured immediately on the banks; and, when populated, no difficulty will be found in obtaining a supply of it prepared for immediate use. By experiment carefully made, one cord of the Paraguay wood was ascertained to be equal, in the production of steam, to a ton of the best anthracite coal.

The left bank of the river, up to the distance of 450 miles from Asuncion, is populated; but more and more sparsely as the northern frontier is approached. Between the most northern Paraguayan and the most southern Brazilian settlements, a distance of 250 miles, there is no habitation of civilized man. Various tribes of Indians were met with at different points, with some of whom we “held a talk,” and parted on such friendly terms, because of the numerous presents we made them in trinkets and tobacco, that they became somewhat troublesome, following us along the banks on horseback, desirous that we should repeat the visit on shore.

The “cacique” and one of his tribe were induced to come on board the vessel. They manifested no astonishment, notwithstanding the novelty of all they saw, a steamer, an object to them incomprehensible, and the first to plough the upper waters of the Paraguay.

Between the town of Santa Fé and Fort Coimbra, the most southern Brazilian military station and settlement, a distance by the river of about 1,400 miles, there is not the residence of one civilized man on the “Chaco” side. In 1855, a colony of Frenchmen was established, however, a short distance above Asuncion, under the auspices of the Paraguay government; but ere many months had elapsed, it fell into disrepute with President Lopez, and was abandoned. The apprehension of inroads from the Indians, up to this time, so effectually excluded all settlement in the “Chaco,” that, to the Paraguayans, the river which intervenes forms an impassable barrier, and the country on its opposite side a “*terra incognita*.” From Coimbra we ascended the river to Corumba, a distance of 120 miles. Intermediate the two places is the small village of Albuquerque. We had now reached the northern limit, Corumba, in latitude 19° south, to which our exploration of the Paraguay was circumscribed by the Brazilian government, having passed through $15\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of latitude, in a direction generally north, and arrived at a point in the interior of South America, very little short of 2,000 miles from the ocean by the course of the river. Judging from what I saw and heard, I have no doubt but that the Water Witch, at the season of high water, could have ascended 300 miles further. Up to the point reached by the Water Witch, steamers of five feet draught could ascend at all sea-

sons of the year ; and with a more suitable draught of three or four feet, they could doubtless reach "Cuyaba," the capital of the rich province of "Matto Grosso," the frontier state of the empire of Brazil, bordering on the Paraguay. This place, with a population of eight or ten thousand souls, will present an important market to commerce, should Brazil abandon her exclusive policy in river navigation, and, with Paraguay, declare the navigation of the Paraguay river open to all commercial flags.

The most direct communication held by this place with other parts of the world is through Rio de Janeiro, over mountains, passable only by means of mules, and through a distance of 1,200 miles. The Paraguay is now made known to the world as navigable into the very heart of her rich frontier province ; and Brazil, having become awakened to the vast importance of such a channel of communication, has, I learn since leaving the waters of the La Plata, entered into a treaty with Paraguay for the right to the navigation of that part of the river passing through her territory, or, more properly, claimed by her.

This is a striking instance of the important results which will eventually flow from this exploration, and evinces the high appreciation entertained by Brazil of the developments arising from the ascent of the Water Witch into the interior of a country never before known to be accessible to steam navigation. The arrival of the Water Witch at Coimbra was hailed with lively enthusiasm, as the forerunner of a new era in the prosperity of that region ; as the pioneer of its commercial intercourse with the world ; "as an event worthy of commemoration by the erection of a lasting monument."

As this was the first fruit of the expedition, it necessarily awakened to a lively sense of its importance the slumbering energies of Brazil, the country most deeply interested in the facts established.

It becomes a pleasing duty, at this part of the report, to make my acknowledgements to the "comandantes" of Coimbra and Corumba for the very polite and hospitable reception extended to us. The whole district is under the command of the comandante of Coimbra, Antonia Peixoto de Azevido Ravim Capite, who controls an institution established at Albuquerque, which not only does great credit to the government of his Imperial Majesty in its efforts to civilize and Christianize the Indians, but trains up, by its benignant tuition, the rising generation, which will, in time to come, form a formidable force, competent to protect and defend her distant frontier from hostile invasion.

The policy of Brazil towards these Indian tribes is both lenient and humane, and well worthy the imitation of any government under whose guardian care these children of the forest may fall.

I have stated that permission to ascend the Paraguay river beyond Corumba had been refused. I was, consequently, forced to abandon, for the present, its further exploration, hoping that on a more mature consideration of my application the government of Brazil would yield its opposition. Permission *was* subsequently granted to explore all the tributaries of the Paraguay within the jurisdiction of Brazil ; and, while anxiously expected, it reached me just on the eve of the rupture of my friendly relations with President Lopez, under whose displeasure

the further exploration of all the waters of the Paraguay, or the entry within the limits of her territory, was prohibited by a formal proclamation. Our work was thus excluded from the waters of Paraguay that had not been explored, and, by the outrage before mentioned, prohibited, also, from a further exploration of the Parana. Previously to this prohibition, the exploration had extended a short distance up the Vermejo, one of the most important tributaries of the Paraguay, to which, by one of those arbitrary acts incident to a consciousness of power, President Lopez asserted exclusive jurisdiction, based upon a treaty *not* concluded, but *rejected* by the constituted authority. Concurrent jurisdiction is claimed by the Argentine Confederation with Bolivia as a question not admissible of discussion; and she even goes further, in the extension of her claims to a large portion of the "Chaco," many miles north of the Vermejo; thus sharing the "Gran Chaco" with Bolivia, and excluding Paraguay altogether from any right to territory on the right bank of that river.

Paraguay, however, asserts her claim, not by right of possession, but through a sufficient force stationed near the mouth of the river, by which she controls its navigation and that of its tributaries.

It had been my aim and object to continue the exploration of the Vermejo, and attempt that of the Pilcomayo—a river of importance to Bolivia, and also to the commercial world—if practicable of navigation; but the same proclamation which closed the Paraguay to further exploration closed this river also.

The time is not far distant when all such prohibitions will be removed; when, under the march of intelligence, exploration, and its attendant developments, will open the road to commerce, to the advancement of education, and to the establishment of the most amicable relations among the distant nations of the earth.

The president of Paraguay, with intelligence far in advance of what could be expected in a country whose existence should date from 1840, and the people of Paraguay—than whom there are none more hospitable or kind—are alive to the importance of commerce, and aware that by it, alone, can the budding resources of their beautiful and rich country become thoroughly matured and developed.

The country of Paraguay presents a field for enterprise of which other portions of the world are profoundly ignorant. Its population, secluded from the world until the year 1840, were ignorant of their own hidden treasures, not of diamonds and gold, but of the more substantial, the more reliable products of the soil; which, aided by man's partial exertions, would yield a most abundant harvest. One of her natural products—the "yerba"—has, up to this time, been the chief source of profit. But, independent of these, as well as of the wealth centered in the herds of cattle which graze upon her extensive plains, it is the hidden treasure of her soil, it is agriculture—the basis of commerce—which she must cherish as the means by which she is to reach her destiny. Her mines of iron are of a superior quality, and although but partially tested, give evidence of a supply far exceeding her own and the combined wants of the neighboring States.

At the distance of 38 miles below Coimbra, and in latitude 20° 10'

south, the river "Bahia Negra" empties into the Paraguay, on the right bank. The entrance to the river, and the immediately adjoining country constitute the entire territory which is yielded to Bolivia by the governments of Brazil and Paraguay; their claims, however unfounded, covering the remainder of the right bank of the Paraguay from the mouth of the Vermejo. The Water Witch entered the "Bahia Negra," and after ascending about 36 miles found the river closed by an impenetrable growth of grass, notwithstanding the depth of the water was nine feet. The banks of the river here became lost and blended with the vast sea of grass rising above the water. The high lands of Bolivia, from whence this river rises, were too distant to be seen. Nothing, save the mountains of Coimbra and Albuquerque, distant 40 miles, interrupted the boundless plain of grass seemingly floating on the water. Not only was our progress in the steamer arrested, but the grass so closed in the channel of the river as to render its further exploration impracticable with the boats. At the season of low water, it is confidently believed that an opening of this river might be effected into a region of Bolivia called "Otuquis," which would give that state the nearest approach to waters navigable at all seasons, and thus render accessible to market the fairest portion of a country now shut out from the world.

The opening of such communication which must naturally follow this exploration, I confidently look forward to, at no distant day, as one of its most valuable results. Public attention had already become awakened to the fact, ere the work had been completed, that this region of Bolivia was accessible to navigation.

Before leaving the waters of the Paraguay river, a very thorough exploration of the country of Paraguay was made. This was performed principally by the aid of Lieutenants Powell and Henry, who by means of the sextant, pocket chronometer and artificial horizon, determined the position in latitude and longitude of many important points. By this work, we are enabled to contribute to geographical science a degree of accuracy in position which this country does not enjoy at the present time. The agricultural districts, as well as those of the natural products, the "yerba," &c., were explored, and the mode of gathering and curing the "tea of Paraguay" accurately observed and noted by Lieutenant Powell. The interesting establishments of the Jesuits, under whose benignant rule the "Guarani" Indians were redeemed from a state of barbarism to civilization and Christianity, were visited, and their geographical positions determined. These establishments still retain in remarkable preservation evidences of the wonderful zeal, perseverance, skill and ability of their founders, in the structure, carving and painting of their churches. When it is remembered what the condition of the country was at the period of the erection of these buildings, with all that pertained to them; that it was a wilderness; that its inhabitants were savages; that out of this wilderness, and by these savages, these truly magnificent edifices were erected, and at such a distance from any civilized nation, one is lost in wonder and admiration at the will, the nerve, the zeal to attempt, and the intellect and skill to achieve such master works.

To give a faint idea of the course pursued by the order of Jesuits,

from the period of their landing to that of their expulsion, and of the results of their labors, which are so intimately interwoven, not only with the history of Paraguay, but with that of the Argentine Confederation, also, would lead me far beyond the limits of this report. I must therefore relinquish it here, for a more appropriate time and place.

Notwithstanding the narrow limits within which it is now kept, the cultivation of the soil was found further advanced in Paraguay than in the *riverine* provinces of the confederation.

The population may truly be said to be an agricultural people. The policy of Francia threw them upon their own labor, and made them dependent upon themselves for all articles of consumption. It drove them to the cultivation of the soil, at least to such an extent as to supply their individual wants; but it does not seem to have awakened or elicited either skill or ingenuity. With the least imaginable labor the earth brought forth her increase; and, secluded from the world as these people were by this restrictive policy, their infantile state had but few wants, and those were scantily supplied.

Time has changed for the better. Strangers are admitted into the country, the people are alive to progress, and the beneficial effects of that forerunner of all prosperity and intelligence, commerce, begin to be manifested in all their pursuits.

There is no trait of character more characteristic of the people of Paraguay than their hospitality to strangers. When we journeyed from one section of the country to another, whether on the frontier or in more settled parts, our movements were not only attended with perfect security, but our reception always with marked kindness. This country is open to the commerce of the United States. It presents a field in common with the Argentine Confederation, which, in its abundant harvest, should not be allowed to fall into other hands. It is peculiarly our own. The similarity in the character of the rivers of South America to those of our own country, and the experience we have had in the construction of boats adapted to such navigation, render our builders and our navigators more competent to supply and run such boats than any other persons on the globe. It has been said that the commerce of these inland countries—alluding especially to Paraguay—can never be carried on directly with either the United States or Europe under their own flags, because vessels suited to the sea could not navigate these interior waters. In refutation of this idea—an idea not to be very much wondered at when we consider the ignorance that prevailed relative to their capacity—I need simply state the fact that the *Water Witch*, a “sea going steamer,” a man-of-war, though small, of nine feet draught, penetrated into the interior of South America to the distance, from the ocean by the river, of 2,000 miles. Ocean steamers of *four times* her tonnage may ascend these rivers nine-tenths of this distance at *all seasons* of the year, as their draught need not exceed six feet.

Previously to leaving the waters of the Paraguay, two of its small tributaries were explored and surveyed, the “*Jejuí*” and “*Confuso*.” The former in the small steamer by Lieutenant Ammen, and the latter by Lieutenant Murdaugh. The “*Jejuí*” rises in the mountains

of Paraguay, and forms the channel by which much of the "yerba" is conveyed into the main river, and thence to Asuncion. The "Con-fuso," less important at this time, and requiring much labor to render it navigable, or at all available, rises in the unknown regions of the "Chaco," and empties into the Paraguay about 60 miles above Asuncion.

The commerce of Paraguay in its extent and progress may be judged of from the following statement taken from authentic records. The increase in exports will exhibit strikingly the benefits resulting from the free navigation of the Parana and Paraguay—an increase produced solely by the native population, there having been no immigration into the country, within the period embraced, calculated to augment the amount of its products.

PARAGUAY.

Return of goods into Asuncion during 1854.

[These import duties are 20 per cent. on articles of necessity, and 25 per cent. on articles of luxury. These duties are levied on a lower valuation than the real value of the goods, so that the total amount of importation may be considered to represent \$700,000.]

Grey shirtings and drills.....	\$112,559
Bleached shirtings and drills.....	41,645
Prints and muslins.....	103,878
Shawls and handkerchiefs.....	51,740
Ticking and cotton pantaloons stuff.....	12,794
Twill.....	585
Thread.....	14,799
Bobbinet.....	1,559
Book muslin.....	4,543
Socks and stockings.....	400
Woolen goods.....	68,697
Silk goods.....	13,922
Ribbons.....	4,012
Hats.....	10,282
Ladies' dresses.....	3,096
Umbrellas.....	330
Boots and shoes.....	2,498
Hardware.....	32,470
Wine and spirits.....	7,295
Books.....	2,034
Chairs.....	360
Salt.....	12,437
Sugar.....	1,521
Flour.....	1,235
Medicines.....	1,125
Glass.....	539

Fire-works	\$703
Red beads.....	1,232
Unenumerated articles.....	77,233
Total amount in 1854.....	585,493

Amount imported in 1853.....	406,688
Amount imported in 1852.....	540,150
Amount of import duties in 1854.....	123,289
Amount of import duties in 1853.....	56,564
Amount of import duties in 1852.....	123,276

PARAGUAY.

Exports from Asuncion during 1854.

[The number of vessels that arrived in Asuncion in 1854 was 160, with about 8,000 tons, of which 2 were British, 31 Paraguayan, 116 Argentine, and 11 Oriental. The export duty is 10 per cent. on almost every article, except starch, which pays 6 per cent. Of the exports of 1854, 82,882 arrobas of yerba, 2,074 pesedas of raw hides, 52,670 varas of timber, and 311 arrobas of horse hair, paid no duty, being exported or sold by the government. The value of these articles is about \$300,000, leaving only \$477,800 worth of produce exported by the trade, making a balance against the market of \$222,500, assuming \$700,000 as the actual value of the imports.]

Yerba, 85,676 arrobas*.....	\$282,489
Tobacco, 103,868 arrobas.....	148,164
Cigars, 5,264 thousands.....	12,568
Timber, 80,313 varas.....	49,050
Raw hides, 38,957 pesadas.....	156,287
Tanned hides, 15,566 hides.....	66,650
Horse hair, 3,205 arrobas.....	9,833
Tan bark, 15,920 arrobas.....	2,719
Starch, 23,325 arrobas.....	10,596
Oranges, 266,893 almudas.....	11,288
Sweetmeats, 29,588 arrobas.....	19,086
Molasses, 30,668 asumbras.....	1,279
Sugar, 7 arrobas.....	20
Sugar cane, 35,600 cañas.....	53
Rum, 12,534 frascos.....	3,168
Maize, (corn,) 29,922 almudas.....	597
Rice, 54 arrobas.....	17
Beans, 3,394 arrobas.....	984
Meal mandioca, 706 arrobas.....	179
Ground nuts, 6,264 arrobas.....	1,164
Algarobilla, 775 arrobas.....	96
Paddles, 196 dozens.....	472

* Paraguayan measure—Almuda = 12 quarts dry measure. Arroba = 25 pounds. Frasco = 3 quarts liquid measure. Asumbra = 34 pounds.

Bamboos, 3,724 dozens.....	\$235
Lime, 200 fanegas (12 almudas).....	500
Earthenware.....	63

Total amount of exports in 1854.....	777,557
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Total amount of exports in 1853.....	691,932
Total amount of exports in 1852.....	474,499
Total amount of exports in 1851.....	341,380
Amount of export duties in 1854.....	40,150
Amount of export duties in 1853.....	36,319
Amount of export duties in 1852.....	29,200
Amount of export duties in 1851.....	10,970

In addition to the articles of export here enumerated, there are other natural products—iron, dye-stuffs, medicinal plants, timber of superior quality for ship building and cabinet work, India rubber, &c., which will vastly augment the present amount of exports, so soon as the petty restrictions now imposed on commerce shall have been removed, a more liberal system adopted for the encouragement of immigration, and a more positive guarantee given for the security of private property. Advancements have been made towards the attainment of these objects since the death of the dictator, Francia, but their accomplishment has not as yet been achieved. It is but the work of time, and that not very distant. In the progress which has marked the policy of the Paraguayan government during the past three or four years, the influence of commerce, stimulated by the opening of the navigation of those rivers, and guaranteed by treaty stipulations, may be distinctly traced. Foreign enterprise embarked in the trade, and the construction of a small steamboat by the expedition, (the first ever launched into the waters of the Paraguay,) demonstrated to the government its resources in part, and at the same time its want of the ability, skill and enterprise to develop them.

These lessons were not lost on President Lopez. He purchased two steamers, and more recently built one on the banks of the Paraguay, near Asuncion, entirely of the wood of the country. For purposes of ship building there are woods in Paraguay of superior quality, the most indestructible of which is the "lapacho."

The following list embraces the names of the woods, of which specimens were sent home from Paraguay; among them are some of very beautiful color and fine grain:

Lapacho,	Esencia,
Palo de Rosa,	Timboyta,
Morosimo,	Curupayna—3 kinds,
Mataojo,	Curupay,
Aya,	Yrapipe,
Urunday,	Palo Blanco,
Algarroba,	Arihan,
Guayaya,	Guayacan,
Laurel Negra,	Espina de Corona,

Laurel Amarillo,
Tatara,
Quebracho Colorado,
Quebracho Blanco,

Palo Santo, (*Lignum Vitæ*),
Palma,
Namguapere.

In extending the exploration into the provinces of Corrientes and Entre Rios, those two riverine states of the Argentine Confederation lying east of the Parana, every facility was offered by the enlightened governor of Corrientes, and by the authorities of every district of the two provinces into which we entered. Politeness and hospitality marked the conduct of the people of the country throughout.

Cultivation is on a limited scale. Grazing of cattle and horses is the principal source of profit to the "estanciero," while "jerked beef," hides and tallow constitute the chief articles of export trade. Quantities of the hard woods are sawed and shipped from Corrientes, where there were being erected steam saw-mills at the time of this exploration.

The northern part of the province of Corrientes is not adapted to cultivation, but suited to grazing. It is but little above the level of the river, and intersected in parts by small lagoons, which, forming a continuous chain, linked together by narrow creeks, present quite a picturesque appearance. In the northwest part of the province is the mysterious lake of "Ibira," around which tradition has thrown a veil of religious awe, preventing all intrusion upon its stillness by the surrounding people. The islands with which it is studded are said by some to have been resorted to by the Jesuit fathers for the performance of some religious ceremony, and by others as the depositories of treasure, in which excursions none were permitted to participate but the fathers themselves. The real obstacle to a better knowledge of the lake and its islands arises, doubtless, from the difficulty of penetrating the extensive fields of grass which skirt the margin. It is the headwaters of many small rivers, the principal of which are the Corrientes, emptying into the Parana, and the Miriña into the Uruguay; both susceptible of navigation at certain seasons of the year. Of the two the Corrientes is the more important, not only because of its coursing through that portion of the province best suited to both agriculture and grazing, but because it empties into a river navigable at all times from their confluence to "La Plata."

The province of Entre Rios, joined to Corrientes on its south, though limited in extent, is more largely engaged in the rearing of cattle, horses and mules, than any other of the confederation. Its soil is fertile, and the best evidence of the excellence of its grass is to be seen in the superiority of its horses, cattle and sheep. The stranger is forcibly struck with the absence of all cultivation; for nature seems to have done all that man could require. Here, the pioneer in agriculture has not to encounter the task of clearing his land of huge and lofty trees, as with us; he has simply to turn up the virgin soil to the sun, plant his seed, and, with the smallest amount of labor, reap an abundant harvest. The cultivation of wheat in this province, though on a limited scale, has tested successfully the capability of both soil and climate. The channels of communication possessed by these two provinces for the transportation of produce

to market are unequalled. The two united, from the figure of a parallelogram—almost entirely surrounded by the Parana and Uruguay—and from their interior flow navigable streams, affording the means of communication at almost all points. Blessed by nature, as these countries are, there are wanting what alone can develop their resources—laboring hands, an agricultural population. Those now in power, whose efforts are for the advancement of their common country, are fully alive to this fact, and the most effective measures have been taken to induce the immigration of this class of people. Under the guarantee of stability of government, which it now seems to be the determination of the States to maintain, the flood tide of immigration will set stronger and stronger, as it has already begun, until the demands of the country are satisfied.

Suppose the resources of this confederation alone fully developed, who can calculate, at this time, the product that would arise from them? And, what is worthy of serious thought and high consideration, who can estimate the future importance of the commerce which this development would create?

The river Uruguay, which bounds Entre Rios and Corrientes on the east, and separates those two provinces from the Banda Oriental and Brazil, is navigable at all times for the distance of 250 miles, up to the "Salto Grande." Here there is a ledge of rocks stretching across the river, and from its extending up the stream has more the character of rapids than of a fall. For a very short time in the year, during the month of October, the river rises to the height of from fifteen to twenty feet, forming over the fall a rapid current, but of sufficient depth to allow of its ascent, under an extraordinary steam pressure. Beyond the "Salto," the river again becomes navigable for small vessels of five feet to the distance of 100 to 200 miles. This "Salto" is, nevertheless, a barrier to the navigation of the river above, the period of high water being of so short duration. When the population of the country above shall have increased, and have felt the want of water transportation, they will see the propriety and practicability of ascending and descending this Salto by means of locks.

The scenery on this river, especially on the left bank—the Banda Oriental—far surpasses that of either the Parana or Paraguay. At the distance of 100 miles above its mouth, the scenery on the right bank, Entre Rios, changes from the flat wooded to the undulating grassy, with skirts of wood here and there fringing its margin. But the left bank, the Banda Oriental, is beautiful throughout. The land is higher above the river, more rolling, with wooded ridges and grassy hill-sides, gently descending into meadows of surpassing verdure. And yet this beautiful, fertile country, exclusive of its principal town, Mount Video, of 80,000 inhabitants, presents the sad spectacle of a waste. Civil wars have desolated the land, and even the city itself has become a battle field. There remains no longer in the country the inducements to revolution, viz: cattle; but in the city there still remains the custom-house, with its rich store of bonded goods, for the protection of which often has it become necessary for foreign men-of-war to interpose.

The resources of the Banda Oriental, notwithstanding its having a

market of its own, are as little developed as the most remote northwest provinces of the Argentine Confederation; and this is because men are not willing to work when they have no guarantee of security for the products of their labor. With the security of peace, this State would soon assume a very different aspect.

The progress of the expedition having been thus far imperfectly sketched through the rivers Parana, Paraguay, Uruguay, and to a short extent into such of their tributaries as were open to it, extending also through those States and provinces east of the rivers, it remains to describe its operations in the connecting of those with the river "La Plata;" in the exploration of the river "Salado; and in the examination of parts of the provinces of Santa Fé, Cordova, Santiago del Estero, Tucuman, and Salta, whose future interests are immediately involved in the navigation of the Salado. The importance of this river to the western and northwestern provinces of the confederation—assuming its navigability established—would occur forcibly even to the most casual observer, who should cast an eye over the map purporting to lay down its course. The circumstances under which the exploration of the Salado was attempted were altogether discouraging. We were told by those who were supposed to be the best informed, that we might possibly ascend about forty-five miles; by some that it was no river; and by others, that it took its rise in some of the numerous lakes commonly found in that region of country; from which may be gathered some idea as to the extent of information obtainable, on this and other subjects, during the prosecution of the work.

To Lieutenant Jeffers, assisted by Lieutenant Henry, the charge of the *Water Witch*, was committed, with instructions to connect the work of "La Plata" with its tributaries, by a detailed and minute survey. This work thoroughly executed resulted in the discovery, as has already been stated, of a new channel connecting "La Plata" with the "Uruguay" and "Parana," and passing east of the island "Martin Garcia." It deprives this island of its commanding military position, and gives to the Banda Oriental concurrent jurisdiction with the state of Buenos Ayres over the entrance to the tributaries of "La Plata," a right exclusively claimed heretofore by the latter.

While thus employed, the *Water Witch* performed most important services in rescuing the Spanish man-of-war schooner "*Cartagenera*" from a position in which she must inevitably have become a wreck had not such timely aid been rendered.

Having chartered a small steamer of ninety feet length, twenty-six inches draught, we entered the Salado with the following officers:

Thomas J. Page, lieutenant commanding.

William H. Murdaugh, lieutenant and acting master.

William L. Powell, lieutenant and acting master.

Robert Carter, assistant surgeon.

T. B. C. Stump, assistant engineer,
and a crew of twenty-two men.

The country through which we were about to pass was in the undisturbed possession of tribes of Indians, known to be very savage. It became necessary, therefore, to be prepared to make a defence against their attacks.

This river takes its rise in the western Cordilleras of the province of Salta, and after a very tortuous course, under the general direction of southeast, empties into the Parana at the town of Santa Fé, and offers to the still further western provinces, "Catamarca" and "Rioja," the most direct and cheapest channel of communication. Its ascent was begun at the season of low water, in July and August; notwithstanding which the river was in its lower part unusually full, but falling. After reaching the distance of three hundred and sixty miles from its mouth, it was apparent that in this part of the river the water had fallen from twelve to fifteen feet, and was still falling slowly. I continued on, until finding but two and a half feet water determined to return and proceed by land to the upper waters; thence to descend the river, if it were possible to procure or construct the means of so doing. In our progress with the steamer we had ascended the river but a short distance when we reached what may be called the frontier military post of Santa Fé, although far within her limits, located here as a check against the further encroachments of the Indians upon the estancias in the immediate vicinity of the town of Santa Fé.

The flat lands immediately adjacent the river extend from one to about five miles in width, forming a "river bottom," well wooded and densely covered with grass; from which the more elevated land, skirted with timber of superior quality, rises gradually to a level with the surrounding *pampa*. The growth on the river bottom and immediately on the banks is of excellent quality as fuel for steamers, and may be had in great abundance. In its green state we experienced no difficulty in keeping up the requisite quantity of steam.

The character of the country is very much the same as that throughout the "Gran Chaco," an alluvial formation with the deposits for ages of decayed vegetation, reproducing from year to year the most luxuriant growth of grass.

One cannot pass along this river without giving utterance to the regret that such beautiful localities should be unoccupied by the hospitable dwelling, or that nature's bountiful bestowal should remain a blank, a wilderness, as little appreciated by the savage man of the *pampa* as by the wild beast of the forest.

We had progressed several hundred miles beyond any habitation and entered some distance into the country possessed by the Indians, but encountered none of them. A herd of wild horses was seen, containing more than one hundred. The country in the vicinity abounds in animals, such as the tiger, deer, and wild goat; the lagoons in ducks, geese, and swans; and the river in fish of great variety.

Specimens of these were secured whensoever it was possible to do so.

Having ascended as far as was practicable with the steamer at that season, as has been stated, I returned to Santa Fé, despatched Mr. Powell in charge of her to survey the "Paranacito" and "Pabon," branches of the Parana, and proceeded by land, accompanied by Mr. Murdaugh and one of our most trusty sailors, to the upper waters of the Salado.

In facilitating our movements Señor Cullen, governor of Santa Fé, promptly put at our service all the requisite means at his disposal.

As we were about to pass into the province and town of Cordova, by a route very little frequented because of the Indians, the governor proffered us the protection of a military escort. The insecurity in travelling on this route made such precaution absolutely necessary. It was therefore thankfully received.

Our road through Cordova was not the most direct route to Santiago, the point aimed at, from which we were again to enter the Salado; but the only route along which the means of travel could be procured, after leaving the province of Santa Fé.

To give an idea of the endurance of the horses of the Argentine Confederation, I should state that for five days consecutively I rode, between "sunrise and sunset," the distance of one hundred and five miles, changing horses at the "postas," distant one from the other from twelve to twenty-four miles. On one occasion Mr. Murdaugh and myself, accompanied by our escort, rode one hundred and twenty miles in twenty hours, not changing horses; and on the same horses continued travelling during the two succeeding days, resting and feeding the horses on the natural grass of the pampa during each night. The horses during the time of travelling were never permitted to drink.

Arrived at Santiago, after a journey of six hundred miles, we were most kindly received by the governor, Don Manuel Taboada, and became the guests of his house. His hospitality and kindness, as well as the very polite attention of his whole family and friends, deserve our most grateful thanks. Having learned the object of our visit, he desired not only to furnish a boat manned, and associate with us his brother, but also to accompany us himself by land, with an escort of eighty soldiers as a protection against the Indians, who were known to be at different points of the river in considerable numbers. All was soon made ready; the boat was transported by oxen a distance of forty miles to the point at which we wished to enter the river, and launched upon the waters of the Salado under the national flag of the confederation, presenting a scene as interesting as novel to the surrounding spectators.

Don Antonio Taboada accompanied us in the boat. His good company, perseverance and zeal to carry out our plans tended in no small degree to their success.

While descending in this boat, and before leaving the inhabited part of the river—for it must be remembered that the part unknown and in the possession of the Indians is about four hundred miles intermediate with the settlements of Santa Fé and those of Santiago—some of the people on the river side, through fear or ignorance of what our boat might be, freighted with human beings, would make most precipitate flight into the woods, imagining it some demon garb assumed by their ever persecuting enemy, the Indians. A detailed account of the exploration, accompanied by the various incidents to which it gave rise, however interesting it might be, would protract this report beyond its prescribed limits.

The descent of the river was continued with difficulty, at times, arising from overhanging trees, and those fallen from the banks; and having proceeded for many days, occasionally encountering obstacles of this kind, I found that the delay in our progress was unnecessarily

great, inasmuch as the character of the river was fully comprehended, and its obstructions clearly understood, I therefore determined to proceed by land, with the party attending us; seeing that, from the nature of the country, a sufficiently thorough examination of the river could be made in that way. The country presented one uninterrupted plain, with this river meandering through it, its course, width and depth having the uniformity of an artificial canal, marked out by the growth of the woods skirting its banks, and sufficiently open at every point to admit of approach and of travel along its margin.

More than two months had elapsed since the ascent of the lower part of the river in the small steamer; and already, by the early setting in of the rainy season in the province of Santiago, had the river become swollen to such an extent that at no point from whence we abandoned the boat was there found less than six feet water; showing that the low state of the river throughout the distance of seven hundred miles from its mouth continued not longer than two months of that year, 1855. In this whole extent, from Santa Fé to a point, "Sandia Paso," thirty-three miles below "Bracho," the eastern frontier post of Santiago, there are no obstacles to safe navigation, even at this time, save here and there a fallen tree, at intervals of great distances, which could be removed by an ordinary boat's crew. At Bracho, the river becomes merged in a lake covered with a growth of flag, which, at the low state of the river only, would present a formidable obstacle to navigation, as it is at this time, but which could be easily removed.

These obstacles will doubtless be removed by the general government. In the province of Santiago alone, where they exist, the enthusiasm of the people is so great that with the ordinary ration, and a daily allowance of tobacco and maté, the work could be accomplished in one season, and the navigation made uninterrupted for six hundred miles by the shortest land route from Santa Fé. Throughout the whole extent there is not an obstruction which may not be removed by manual labor, without the cost of machinery, or calling into requisition the science of engineering. There are neither rocks nor shoals.

Having become satisfied of the practicability of rendering the Salado navigable during the season of high water, from Santa Fé to the distance of nine hundred miles by the river—six hundred by the route now travelled and four hundred in a right line, up to within a short distance of the point at which our boat was launched—the exploration was extended through the provinces Tucuman and Salta, up to the capital of the latter, under the same name, by one route, and on our return by another; Mr. Murdaugh coursing along the river, descending it from a point called Mira Flores to that at which we entered the river in the boat, whilst I pursued another route. The result of his examination of this part of the river may be given in the words of his journal:

"There would be some difficulty in the navigation from Mira Flores to San Miguel, because of the rapidity of the current arising from the fall in the level of the land. It is also interrupted in that part by sand banks. From San Miguel the river becomes confined within high banks, well wooded, level country, but little current,

width greater than below, perfectly clear of obstructions, well inhabited, country beautiful, but little cultivation—some wheat.”

He speaks in pleasing terms of the hospitality extended him by the inhabitants of the country. Although so far removed from the usually travelled route, they had heard of the success attending the exploration of this river; that of a truth it mingled its waters with those of the Parana, and contributed to swell La Plata; a truth which filled them with the most lively anticipations of the future.

This additional distance extends the navigation of the Salado to about one hundred and fifty miles, by land, above the point at which the boat was launched; thereby giving to Tucuman and Salta the benefits of river transportation for their merchandize and produce. In these benefits the more western provinces, Catamarca and Rioja, will also participate, although not so directly.

Their mines, by this mode of transportation, will no longer remain valueless; they will contribute their share—amidst the developed resources of the country—to swell the bulk of exportation in products for which, at this time, and under the existing state of things, there are no means of transportation.

In claiming for this expedition the discovery of the navigability of the Salado, I am well aware that there has been a tradition that the Salado was navigable up to Matara. The absence of all confidence in this idea, however, was so prevalent—I may say universal—that it was at no time followed up so as to establish its truth. On the contrary, when the attempt was first made to test it, the reports which reached us were very discouraging.

While descending the Salado we encountered hostile Indians at two different points. They were attacked by our escort, and, considering the odds so much in our favor, they defended themselves most gallantly, and at times, after their usual mode of fighting, would make a dash with considerable effect. They were mounted and armed with the lance. Their expertness with this weapon, and their management of the horse, are scarcely equalled by the “Gaucho,” their civilized enemy. There were recovered from them two or three hundred head of cattle and as many horses, which they had stolen but a few days previously from the “estancias” and poor people living along the Salado.

The privation and exposure we experienced throughout this exploration, not only of the Salado, but of the country somewhat in the interior of the provinces, were calculated to try our physical endurance, and test our zeal and energies even in a cause of such deep interest and importance. We nevertheless found ourselves relieved from the fatigues of the day, after a night spent upon the soft grass of the *pampa*, with the canopy of heaven our vaulted roof. The rain would descend with tropical force, but our India rubber ponchos seldom failed to secure us refreshing sleep. The dawn would find us, though wet, prepared for the toils of the day. The life was one of health and vigor. Never were our physical energies more nerved to meet and overcome toil and privation. Weeks and months thus passed away; and had the time been doubled, and the exposure greater, so

happy a termination of our labors would have amply compensated for all such endurance.

The exposure incident to works of this character is calculated generally, to give a correct idea of the health or sickness of the country in which they are prosecuted. And such was the unusual absence of sickness among both officers and crew of the *Water Witch*, notwithstanding the exposure to which we were subjected, that we are constrained to pronounce Paraguay and those provinces of the Argentine Confederation which constituted the field of our operations, the healthiest region we have ever visited. Its proximity to the tropics, and physical character, judging from analogy, might, on a superficial knowledge of it, convey a very different idea.

In giving this as an opinion, we do not judge solely from the effects of the climate on our exploring party, but from facts indisputable. In Paraguay there is no practicing physician. Nature provides a "remedio" for every disease in the medical plants which are to be found throughout the country; and few there are who do not know the peculiar virtue of each one. Among the botanical specimens, collected in Paraguay alone, there are sixty-six varieties of medicinal plants, and yet the collection is incomplete in this branch. It is not an uncommon occurrence to meet with aged persons who will say they have never been sick. In the province of Santiago del Estero there is no professional physician. One will often hear the remark, "there has never occurred in Santiago a case of intermittent fever;" and so far as our experience goes, it tends to verify the statement. It was in this province that we tested our own powers of physical endurance, and at the same time the health of the climate, by the exposure to which we were subjected both by day and night. During the greater portion of the year the country people sleep in the open air, never "in doors" unless driven in by rain.

This condition of climate prevails, although in a less degree, throughout the confederation, and notwithstanding the limited demand for medical services, it is by no means supplied in the cities of Cordova, Tucuman, &c., where the practitioner would have his surgical skill as often called into requisition as his practice of medicine, and were the people, entertaining a just appreciation of such services, are punctual and liberal in rewarding them.

Before leaving this imperfect sketch of our work in this region of country, I should not only do violence to our feelings, but injustice to others, were I not to make a formal acknowledgement of our high appreciation of the hospitality and kindness extended to us, not only by persons of the highest official position, as governors of the provinces of Santa Fé, Santiago, Tucuman, and Salta, but by gentlemen and families in their private circles, whose attentions will ever be recalled with emotions of the most pleasing character.

The following extracts from the government papers will, in part, show the enthusiasm felt in some sections of the confederation on the subject of the navigation of the Salado, and in truth they may be looked upon as expressing the feelings of the whole country:

[Translated from the "Argentino Independiente" of Tucuman, of October 3, 1855.]

"We have among us two distinguished guests, Captain Page and Lieutenant Murdaugh, of the North American navy. We hasten to salute and welcome these gentlemen, for whom Tucuman entertains the most lively sympathies; it being well known that these gentlemen, with a degree of intelligence, energy and perseverance beyond all praise, are engaged in the exploration of our interior rivers. This enterprise could not have been entrusted to a more suitable person than Captain Page. It appears that no difficulties can deter him from accomplishing his undertakings. He has already achieved the triumph and glory of being the first who has penetrated and subjugated by steam our deserts. We hope that powerful agent of modern civilization will soon directly influence the advancement and civilization of this republic.

"The government, duly appreciating the important services which these distinguished officers of the American navy confer on the country, and regarding the recommendations from the national government, has in honor of these gentlemen given a splendid banquet, at which were assembled our most distinguished citizens," &c., &c.

[From the "Argentino Independiente" of November 10, 1855.]

"According to the information concerning the 'Rio Salado' which has been given to us, in various extracts of letters forwarded for publication by the minister of government, Don José Posse, we can say that the navigability of the Salado is now an established fact. We are lost in wonder and admiration when we consider this achievement, and the revolution socially and commercially it is destined to work out in the condition of these provinces. The rich and varied products of Tucuman will no longer be confined within her own borders, but will be transported, by means of the Salado, to seek a market in other provinces of the confederation, or in some foreign land," &c., &c.

[From the "Comercio de Salta."]

"We announce, with pleasure, the arrival in this capital of Captain Page and Lieutenant Murdaugh, of the United States navy.

"It would be unnatural in a Tucumano not to entertain towards these gentlemen the warmest sympathies. The service they have rendered to the country in revealing to us the existence of a navigable river in that region which, until recently, we regarded only as a desert, to be feared because of its savage tribes, is inappreciable. Our mind, pre-occupied with the political events which, during forty years, have rent our bosom, appears not to comprehend, even now, the importance of this species of conquest. There remains no doubt that the Salado is navigable up to within the province of Salta.

"The illustrious North American government, to which we are beholden for this discovery, can always rely on the gratitude of loyal 'Argentinos;' and Captain Page and Lieutenant Murdaugh, explorers on the part of that government, leave with us remembrances that will immortalize their names. To the perseverance and energy of

these intelligent naval officers are due, in an eminent degree, the advantages which the western and northwestern provinces of the confederation are about to realize from the navigation of the Salado," &c., &c.

These extracts are sufficient to show the appreciation of our labors in the Argentine Confederation.

The collections in natural history made by the officers alone, under discouraging circumstances, will, I hope, be found worthy of presentation to the scientific world. The officers generally, as is stated, aided in the collection; but the services of Dr. Carter, in this branch of our work, contributed most materially to its success. In devoting a few words to this collection, I will use the language of one of our most distinguished naturalists, as expressed in a note to me.

The collections in natural history, obtained by the Water Witch, are very comprehensive in character, embracing specimens of quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, crustacea, shells, minerals, plants, living and dead, with seeds and sections of wood, fossil remains of fishes, &c. The aggregate is one of great magnitude, and may safely be said to constitute, by far, the largest collection ever made in South America by an American expedition. Notwithstanding the difficulties of preservation consequent upon the hot, moist climate, the specimens brought home are all in the finest possible condition. The collection is especially rich in the larger birds of Paraguay: in the hawks, eagles, ducks, geese, mackaws, curassous, &c., several of which are believed to be new to science, and few of them previously brought to the United States.

"Some interesting quadrupeds were also procured, as the jagua, the nutria, so well known in the fur trade, the capybara, the armadillo, various species of deer, monkeys, &c. Specimens of the two first mentioned animals were brought home alive, and sent to the government Asylum for the Insane. The collections of reptiles and fishes of the region explored are believed to be much more complete than those of any previous expedition."

They embrace specimens of nearly all the various serpents of Paraguay. Among them are some formidable species of the families of the rattlesnake and copperhead.

"The fishes are in very great variety, and will illustrate the formidable and rapacious character of all the inhabitants of the fresh waters of South America, in being universally provided with sharp cutting teeth. A considerable proportion of all these are believed to be undescribed, as also of the invertebratae."

I regret to say that several of the living animals previously sent home from Paraguay, as the tapir, capybara, coatimundi, with two or three birds, either died on the way or after their arrival in the United States. It was found almost impossible to preserve, in a proper condition, dried plants, although a large number was collected; also, seeds, and some living plants, some of which are now growing. Particular attention was paid to those of special interest.

The large collection of woods of Paraguay, in sections, will be found not without interest.

In concluding this synopsis of the report, which, with the permis-

sion of the department, I hope to make more in detail at as early a period as possible, I will state, in a few words, the extent of survey and exploration accomplished by the expedition in the tributaries of La Plata, and in the countries adjacent, or immediately interested in their navigation.

The survey embraced an extent of river course of 3,600 miles, and of actual exploration, or travel by land, of 4,400 miles. These waters are open to the American flag and their territory to American enterprise.

He who established, at the downfall of Rosas, that free and independent government, the Argentine Confederation, based upon principles identical with those of our own Constitution, has unsealed the mouths of these rivers, opened them to commerce, and holds out inducements to immigration on terms of the most enlightened and liberal character.

The progress made in those countries, even during the short period of the operations of this expedition—the constitutional government having been established in 1853—was too manifest to escape the most uninterested observer; an advance towards good government, a progress intellectually and morally, in three years far exceeding what had been accomplished during three hundred previously; demonstrating practically the wonderful blessings of peace and good government over civil wars and despotism.

No portion of South America has so largely occupied the attention of European statesmen, within the last twenty years, as the states of La Plata; and in my opinion of the immense resources of this country are more than sustained by those of some of the most eminent men of Europe.

With the navigability of her great interior water courses once established, La Plata will have received the development of centuries, and we may safely anticipate the tide of immigration which will set into those countries; and without being visionary, we foresee a future development, which in the history of the world will only be surpassed by the growth of the United States of North America. In offering to immigration and to trade, the temptations of a country, even richer in all natural, mineral, pastoral and agricultural resources than the great basins of the Orinoco and Amazon, she offers a climate genial and unrivalled for its salubrity; and a population sufficiently large, and advanced in civility, to form, at once, the basis of extensive commercial operations.

Brossard, a French diplomatist, in a recent work upon La Plata, says, in writing on the immigration from France into that country: "In 1838 the number of French registered at the French consulate at Montevideo amounted to five thousand, at the end of 1842 it had increased to nine thousand; but it must be remembered that this register embraced only adults, and the best authorities compute the whole number, inclusive of women and children, at not less than fifteen thousand. During the first months of the year 1841 there arrived at Montevideo more than thirty-five hundred persons from the Basque provinces, and it is estimated that not less than 28,245 European immigrants arrived from 1838 to the close of 1841."

It must be remembered that this tide of immigration flowed in when these countries were distracted by civil wars and revolutions, which have given place to more settled governments and commercial treaties with the United States and some of the great powers of Europe ; treaties which have opened to the world countries less known than Japan, and offering a much more extended and varied field for commercial enterprise. Some of these countries have, by recent acts—by donations of land, &c.—offered great inducements to immigration ; indeed, they have entered into arrangements with agents to promote the transportation of immigrants upon the most favorable terms.

We can only imagine what they may become when the results of our explorations are made known.

We, as before stated, have ascertained and established the navigability of the river Salado to the distance of 800 miles—never before passed over by the white man—and have, for the first time, exhibited upon the waters the great lever of modern civilization—steam. It waters a country unrivalled in the beauty of its scenery, the salubrity of its climate, and the riches of its natural resources ; and brings into communication with the Atlantic some of the richest and most populous provinces—Santiago del Estero, Tucuman, Salta, Jujui, &c.—whose products have heretofore been conveyed to the port of Rosario by ox wagons, occupying a period of ten months to go and return, but which can now by boats reach the same port in 15 days, and a return cargo of merchandise be made in 25.

Even the Indians, who have heretofore made hostile descents upon the few settlements along its banks, might be made, by kind and judicious treatment, powerful agents in developing the agricultural resources of the country.

On some of the “*estancias*” of the Argentine Confederation this experiment has been made with success.

Our explorations upon the Paraguay have extended seven hundred miles beyond any previous navigation, and our labors have been made the “*subject*” of a highly complimentary notice before the royal geographical society, by Lord Ellesmere and Sir Charles Lyell.

A part of the ancient empire of the Incas—the state of Bolivia—has vital interest in the results of this exploration. Possessing but one indifferent port on the Pacific, and this separated by the Cordilleras of the Andes and the desert of Atacama, eighty miles wide, from the interior, it is only by her rivers communicating with the Paraguay that the wealth of her mines and the fruits of her forests, teeming with many of the products of the Indies, can be brought into the trade of the Atlantic.

From being one of the best populated, as well as the richest, of the South American States, a field is at once opened for the manufactures of Europe and the United States. At simply a nominal expense, when we look to the vastness of the interest involved, might she effect this outlet into the Paraguay, through the river Otuquis, now obstructed by a dense growth of grass. This outlet is practicable ; and when civil wars shall have ceased to distract the nation, Bolivia will find, in the improvement of the navigation of this river into Bahia Negra, an enterprise worthy of her whole energies ; for, by its accom-

plishment, she forms a channel of communication with the Paraguay, practicable at all seasons of the year.

Paraguay promises a lucrative commerce to any people that may become engaged in it—producing tobacco of a very superior quality, hides, yerba, cotton, medicinal plants, dyestuffs, and a large quantity of woods for ship building and ornamental purposes; but above all, so superior is the quality of her tobacco, to which both climate and soil seem peculiarly adapted, that it would become an article of extensive trade. She would seek eagerly, in return, salt and manufactured goods.

In ascending the Paraguay two thousand miles from the Atlantic, in an ocean steamer, a man-of-war, we have reached the frontiers of some of the richest provinces of Brazil—provinces whose products had before no outlets but the port of Rio Janeiro—a port reached by a laborious, dangerous and costly land travel, over mountain paths, inaccessible but to the sure-footed mule.

Brossard says that those who regard the future development of these countries as chimerical, must only glance at the prosperity of the United States of North America, which, fifty years past, were more thinly populated, and possessed a climate less genial and salubrious, and a soil less rich in its varied products.

It may seem a strange assertion, and yet it is true, that the history and resources of La Plata are better known to Europeans than to the inhabitants of the United States; and the statesmen of the leading powers of Europe have for many years made this portion of South America an object of active interest. Europe has been represented there by her ablest diplomatists—Walewski, Lord Howden, Baron Gros, Mr. Gore, Sir Charles Hotham, M. St. George, &c., have successively, for the last ten years, represented their governments there.

Even Austria, though not a maritime power, was the first European government to acknowledge the independence of Paraguay. Proverbially sagacious and far seeing as her statesmen are known to be, they have doubtless discovered in La Plata a healthful outlet for the disaffected population of the Lombardo-Venetian states.

M. Guizot comprehended equally the importance of opening the countries of this great basin to European enterprise. In a despatch to M. de Saint Aulaire, then the French ambassador at London, he says, in writing of the intervention of France and England in the affairs of La Plata: "We must ask, as an accessory consequence of our intervention, the application of the principles established by the congress of Vienna for the free navigation of rivers," in relation to those, which, flowing from the frontiers of Brazil and Paraguay, throw themselves into the Atlantic.

M. Thiers, in a speech before the legislative assembly of France, delivered January 6, 1850, says of the commerce and brilliant future of La Plata: "Your trade with the two Americas is enormous; larger than with any other region of the globe. It represents nearly five hundred millions, of which North America absorbs the greater part. Of these five hundred millions, North America receives three hundred and fifty; South America one hundred and fifty, which is not quite a third; but you deceive yourselves strangely if you appreciate this

hundred and fifty millions of commerce only by the cypher by which it is represented. The trade of North America, which apparently presents such great advantages, and which you guard with such solicitude, has two great drawbacks: first, it is exposed to the tariff, which the manufacturing classes (*parti industriel*) demand. * Secondly, they have the advantage of you in navigation. * * *

"Now let us look at South America: you there trade with nations whose growth surpasses even that of North America. The census of North America represents the population as doubling itself nearly in twenty years. I can prove to you that there are states in South America where the population has tripled in twelve years.

"The trade of Brazil has advanced in ten years from a little less than thirty to sixty millions; the trade of La Plata has advanced in twelve years from between four and five millions to forty millions.

"You may judge from this of the progress of trade in those countries.

"Again: I am profoundly convinced that without this war, which your energy can alone terminate, the trade of South America—and I speak without exaggeration—will reach to two hundred millions.

"Again: you encounter there no manufacturing party, (*parti industriel*.) She cannot menace you for a long period with the industrial rivalry which now threatens you in the United States. The people of South America are at best an agricultural people; and lastly, you have the certainty that your flag will there develop itself immensely; and there is only that region for its development, (*et il n'y a plus que cette region pour le developper.*"

In a memorial addressed to the King of Prussia, advocating the establishment of a line of steamers with South America, the views of Thiers, for France, are applied to Germany. The writers say: "Brazil will never become a manufacturing country, and the products of Germany will there, *in all time, or forever*, find an assured outlet or market. After Brazil, the states of the Rio de la Plata merit the greatest attention among the countries of South America, and an extended commerce with Brazil will secure to Germany relations with these states. The vast territories which form the basin of the Parana, the Paraguay and the Uruguay, and their tributaries, contain the elements of a prosperity and wealth the most varied. What a future do these countries not offer?"

Will not the United States enter her claim for some portion of the much coveted trade with these countries, forming a part of our own hemisphere?

While benefitting by our recent explorations and surveys of the tributaries of La Plata neighboring and weaker republics—thus developing their resources we have opened for ourselves a vast field for trade in all the products of temperate and tropical zones; and these, with the hidden wealth of the frozen regions of the Andes, will find a rapid and safe river transit to the Atlantic. Protected by the flags of the great maritime powers, this excess of wealth will be poured into the lap of nations. We can apply to ourselves with equal force the arguments of Thiers and the German memorialists. We are not menaced by the rivalry of a manufacturing people, and our flag may find a field of extensive development. If the government of the

United States be true to its own interest, if it desire to cherish and maintain a feeling of national friendship with these countries, to the development of whose resources I sanguinely hope our work may offer no mean contribution; if it desire to secure the benefits to our country likely to arise from a commerce destined to be of inestimable value, it must step in while "the waters are troubled;" it must move ere alliances are made elsewhere.

The most flattering compliment has been paid this government by the people of the Argentine Confederation, through their representatives that could possibly be bestowed by one nation upon another. They have adopted our Constitution as theirs, in every particular, save in some few, where it would have been totally inoperative. They point to our progress as an example to their own people; they copy and circulate the writings of our statesmen; they desire to imitate us, so far as it may be possible, and to this end they look for a continuance of peace. These countries are worthy of our highest consideration; and if, in our diplomatic relations, we are notably represented, then we are not fairly represented; and we do injustice to ourselves. Of their character, their resources, &c., there is but little known; and should this synopsis of our work have the effect of calling the attention of the commercial community to those regions embraced under the general name of "La Plata," the object of the expedition will have been attained; even the most sanguine anticipations will have been more than realized.

I trust, also, that our labors in the field of natural history will not be found to have been in vain. The collections in the different branches of natural history, which have been examined only cursorily by eminent naturalists, give evidence of their constituting a valuable contribution to that science. In support of this idea, I append the following letters,* showing the importance attached to those branches which have undergone simply a preliminary examination:

PHILADELPHIA, *November 11, 1856.*

SIR: The collection of birds made during the survey and exploration of the Rio Parana, by the United States steamer *Water Witch*, under your command, has been received for examination at the Academy of Natural Sciences of this city.

This collection is one of the most interesting ever made in South America, on account of the countries in which it was obtained being so seldom visited by travellers or naturalists, and my impression is that it contains numerous birds never before known, and certainly not in any museum or collection in this country.

I hope to have, at an early day, the honor of reporting to you, sir, the results of a more extended and careful examination, especially of the many remarkable birds in this collection.

The volumes relating to natural history have, within a few years, been completed by two European expeditions to South America. The more important is the voyage of her Majesty's ship *Beagle*, per-

* These letters, it will be seen, were received and inserted some time after the report had been submitted to the department.

formed by order of the British government. The other is D'Orbigny's voyage to South America, performed under the auspices of the government of France. In both of these the natural history is very carefully published. Your collections are certainly not inferior to those of either of these expeditions, and judging from the notes of officers, which I have seen, my opinion is that an American contribution to the natural history of South America can be made very much superior to both.

So long as the condition or progress of the arts and sciences properly characterize nations, the publication of the results in natural history of your expedition must be regarded not only as important to zoological science, but even in a national aspect.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

JOHN CASSIN.

Captain PAGE, *United States Navy*.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 25, 1856.

DEAR SIR: The preliminary survey which I have made of the fishes and reptiles collected by you in Paraguay, fully anticipates the expectation we might have entertained in that respect, while you were yet in the field.

Of the fishes, two families are especially well represented—the *siluroid* and the *characini*. The first embracing fishes akin to the catfish of our fresh waters, and the sea-cat of our coast. It is especially numerous in South America, where its various types assume most diversified aspects. The second is almost exclusively proper to the southern hemisphere, since its northernmost representative is an inhabitant of the waters of the valley of the Rio Grande del Norte, (Rio Bravo,) and southwest portion of Texas.

I perceive already several species entirely new to science, and I am satisfied that, on a more critical examination of the whole collection, many more will turn out to be so. But the accession of new species is not the sole point of interest in the collection we owe to your exertions. Its study will touch to other problems as yet but little understood. And first and foremost is the problem of the natural affinities of these fishes with the types now extinct, and which have peopled the waters of geological eras in times gone by. Next comes the problem of the zoological affinities with the ichthyic fauna now living upon the present surface of the earth.

I could already point out to you some of the results, cursorily obtained, were I not reluctant to write fragments of a history which will make the subject of a general report to you, so soon as Congress shall have decided upon its publication.

I have a few words to say about the reptiles. There are but few saurians or lizards in the collection; some of them I have had an opportunity to examine from other sources.

The ophidians or snakes are well represented; several are mocassin-like, the others belong to the inoffensive colubridæ, both of land and water habits.

I see no frogs. A series of tree-frogs and tree-toads, however, make me think that many interesting results will be obtained from their investigation.

The same is true with regard to the toads, properly so called, of which there are several kinds. Their history will fill up a gap in the natural history of South America, and complete the results I have obtained a few years since while examining other collections.

I remain sincerely yours,

C. GIRARD.

Captain T. J. PAGE, *United States Navy.*

PHILADELPHIA, *December 1, 1856.*

DEAR SIR: I have seen and cursorily examined a portion of the specimens in natural history which have been brought from the interior of South America; the acquisitions of the expedition for exploration recently under your command, and am impressed with the importance to science and the industrial arts of all the information acquired by you. There can be no hesitation in declaring that you should be enabled, by an appropriation on the part of government, to make known the result of your labors, and thus secure, for the benefit of mankind, what has been deemed of sufficient consequence to authorize a special commission to obtain. With the hope that you will speedily be enabled to proceed with the work of publication, I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

C. CARSON,

Prof. Materia Medica, &c., University of Pennsylvania.

Captain PAGE,

United States Navy, Washington.

With the hope that the facts herein set forth, which have been hurriedly thrown together from my journal, may be enlarged upon at a subsequent but not distant day, and added to by the introduction of matter more interesting to the general reader, they are respectfully submitted.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. J. PAGE, *Commander*

Hon. J. C. DOBBIN,
Secretary of the Navy.

Annual report of the Secretary of State, December, 1857.

THE UNITED STATES AND PARAGUAY.

Mr. Marcy to Lieutenant Page.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 2, 1854.

SIR: I transmit the President's ratification of the treaty between the United States and Paraguay, which was negotiated and concluded by Mr. Pendleton on our part. It will be seen that the instrument was approved by the Senate, with a few unimportant verbal amendments, and has been ratified accordingly.

You are desired to propose an exchange of this ratification for that of the President of Paraguay. No objection on his part to this proposition can be anticipated. A full power authorizing you to make the exchange is herewith transmitted. The ratification of the President of Paraguay must include the amendments of the Senate of the United States expressed in the Spanish language. The preamble to the ratification may be similar to the preamble of our ratification. This must be followed by a transcript of the original treaty, word for word, and this by the ratification itself. A certificate of the exchange must be executed in duplicate by the person who acts on the part of that government and yourself. The copy in English may accompany the ratification of Paraguay, and the one in Spanish be placed with our ratification. A draft of such a certificate accompanies this communication.

When the exchange shall have been effected, you will commit the ratification of Paraguay to the custody of Mr. Buckalew, who is the bearer of this instruction. Inasmuch, however, as he may be detained at some point on his way home, it would be advisable for you to inform the department by the first mail of the date of the exchange, if it should be effected, in order that the treaty may be published.

You will please keep an account of any expenses which you may incur in executing this instruction. They will be reimbursed to you by this department.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY.

Lieut. THOMAS JEFFERSON PAGE,
United States Navy.

[Extract.]

*Lieutenant Page to Mr. Marcy.*UNITED STATES STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Corrientes, October 17, 1854.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the honorable the Secretary of State that I received yesterday, at the hands of Mr. C. R. Buckalew, the treaty between the United States and Paraguay, with instructions from the department to effect an exchange of ratification with such person as may be duly authorized by the latter government.

Yesterday I despatched an officer of this vessel bearer of a communication from myself to the secretary of state of the republic of Paraguay, informing him that I had received from the President of the United States a commission and power to act in the exchange of ratification, and desiring to be informed if I should proceed to Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, for that purpose.

My reason for thus addressing the government of Paraguay is because of a recent decree issued, prohibiting all "foreign men-of-war" entering or ascending the river Paraguay. This decree has been issued in consequence of the part taken by the Water Witch, under my command, in protecting and relieving American citizens, whose residence in that country had become subjected to restrictions almost amounting to persecution.

* * * * *

The water Witch became necessarily involved in this difficulty, because of the duty devolving upon her in the protection of the persons and property of American citizens, the government of Paraguay still pursuing a system of insult and injury, notwithstanding I had assured it of the consequences which would inevitably result from such a course. In the discharge of this duty, the Water Witch has brought upon herself the odium of the government of Paraguay, and it remains to be seen what course that government will take relative to the exchange of ratification of the treaty.

There is no reason why an objection should be made, and none could possibly be anticipated, save from such a government as Paraguay, whose form and administration would secure to it more appropriately the appellation of absolute despotism than that of republic.

I have the honor, sir, to be very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. PAGE,

Lieut. Commanding.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Lieutenant Page to Mr. Marcy.

UNITED STATES STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Corrientes, November 5, 1854.

SIR: In my communication of the 17th October I advised the department of the steps I had taken towards effecting the exchange of ratification of the treaty between the United States and Paraguay. I now have the honor to inform the department that yesterday Lieutenant Murdaugh, the officer despatched to Asuncion with my letter to the secretary of state informing him that I had been commissioned by the President of the United States to exchange the ratification of the treaty, and desiring to know if I should proceed to Asuncion for that purpose, returned, bringing me the enclosed letter from the secretary of state, together with my letter returned to me.

Lieutenant Murdaugh stated to the secretary of state, on presenting my letter, that it related to the treaty. It was known to the government of Paraguay that the ratification had reached Buenos Ayres some days previously to the arrival of Mr. Murdaugh. The letters alluded to in the note of Mr. Secretary José Falcon, of the 29th and 30th of September, were addressed to me, returning my letters of the 28th and 29th, copies of which I have transmitted to the Navy Department. In his letter of the 29th of September Mr. José Falcon, secretary of state, says my letter of the 28th is returned without an answer because it is written in the English language; and his of the 30th of the same month, in reply to mine of the 29th, and returning the same, is simply a repetition of the same excuse for not noticing it.

I could see no obligation on my part to correspond with the government of Paraguay in any other than my own language, knowing full well that it possessed the means of having my letters translated into its own language. I had reasons, apart from the consideration that President Lopez, in his presumptuous exercise of authority, might conceive himself empowered to force me to correspond in his own language, for writing in English. The only person associated with me who is at all capable of translating English into Spanish is my clerk, and his imperfect knowledge of the language, (as a translator,) coupled with the fact that his translation would not be a fair and true expression of the tenor and import of my letters, determined me not to put myself in a position, in my official correspondence, to be misrepresented. And, again, as President Lopez's acts of tyranny and oppression towards American citizens, against which I protested, were acts of public notoriety, it became my duty, as the agent of my government, to define my position, that the foreign population, and the community generally, should understand the grounds on which I stood in the protection of Americans.

To assume an attitude opposed to the will of the President of Paraguay, however arbitrarily that will may have been exercised, was an offence in the eyes of President Lopez which he could not conceive any one would dare commit; and as my note of September 28, written in terms most respectful, plainly but firmly assured him as to the course it would become my duty to pursue, should there be a continu-

ance of the practices of insult and oppression towards the American citizens by the government officers, he did not wish that such a letter should be seen by any one other than himself and his secretary. He was as well aware of the contents of that letter before he returned it as I was; and he knows as well as I do the contents of the letter I addressed the secretary of state, by the hands of Mr. Murdaugh, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose to the department. I also enclose the reply of Mr. José Falcon, in the original, from which the honorable the Secretary will perceive that the government of Paraguay aims to be insulting, even in the forms and ceremonies of its official notes. It neither begins nor ends in the usual style of courtesy adopted between the most humble citizens; neither is it in the usual style of official correspondence of the Paraguay government. The importance attached to all such observances is nowhere so highly esteemed as in Paraguay.

President Lopez has refused to receive my official letter informing him of the fact that I had been appointed by the President of the United States to exchange the ratification of the treaty. He cannot plead ignorance of its contents; and if he were, I cannot conceive that such an excuse can possibly be received by the government of the United States. He does not express any inability on the part of the Paraguay government to have English documents translated into Spanish. That government has been addressed, on more occasions than one, by the State Department, in the English language. If I understand my duty aright, in my official communications with Paraguay, it is to make them in English. President Lopez has assumed this ground for the purpose of showing to the cringing officials by whom he is surrounded, if he can possibly carry his point, that he will make foreign governments, through their agents, as well as Paraguay subjects, obedient to his authority, and yet hopes to escape being held responsible and answerable by any foreign government he may thus insult in the obsequiousness of his correspondence and the unwarrantable misrepresentation of facts.

The President of Paraguay, notwithstanding his contemptible insinuations in his official organ, (a number of which I have forwarded to the honorable the Secretary of the Navy,) reflecting upon my conduct, does not specify one single act of mine as being wanting in profound respect towards his government in all of my intercourse with it. But because I removed the Americans from under the tyrannical rule of his despotic power he considers that I have committed a most heinous offence; and for this reason he treats with contempt my official announcement that I have been commissioned by the President of the United States to exchange the ratification of the treaty.

President Lopez has been in the habit of exercising his arbitrary power over the province of Corrientes, (one of the Argentine Confederation,) because it has not the means of repelling his aggressions; and he deems it essential to the maintenance of his uncontrolled sway at home to exhibit to the people of Paraguay an assumption of the same authority with all nations.

I beg leave of the department to indulge me in the expression of my opinion touching the subject of this communication. The pride

of President Lopez has been wounded by my presuming to remove from under his tyrannical rule Americans whom he determined to persecute some time longer. His hostility to Americans is a fact too well established to be hid under his professions of a sincere desire for the maintenance of friendly relations. He desires much that Paraguayans, in their benighted state, should acquire from Americans some ideas of the arts ; but he apprehends that at the same time they acquire these, they may imbibe some notions of liberty and free government.

He designs to make this act of his appear in Paraguay, and in the adjoining states, as an exhibition of his power ; hoping through professions, falsely made, to quiet the government of the United States into an indulgence of him in his course, and induce a censure of its agent. I deem this return of my note an insult to the government of the United States, and I indulge the hope that such measures will be adopted as will convince the President of Paraguay that the United States will not tolerate the indignities it has been his habit to bestow upon other governments.

The government of the United States, by assuming this position, will not only maintain that elevated stand which is its right in Paraguay, but in all other South American states. On the contrary, should it assume a conciliatory course, in manifestation of an earnest desire to maintain the most friendly relations, its motives will not be rightly judged, and the government of Paraguay will be emboldened in the assumption of a course still more arrogant.

I trust that the government of the United States will direct me to proceed to Asuncion, in the *Water Witch*, with a letter from the State Department to the minister of foreign relations, informing him that I am commissioned to effect the exchange of ratification of the treaty ; or, if I may be allowed the suggestion, as a surer means of accomplishing the object, the commodore of the Brazil squadron might be instructed to proceed to Asuncion, on board of the *Water Witch*, with the brig *Bainbridge* in tow.

I feel confident in assuring the department that such a course would result in the exchange of ratification. But should it not, I hope the department will instruct me how to proceed. There are some governments with which peaceable and friendly relations, it is well known, can be maintained only by an exhibition of a sufficient force, and a determination to submit to no indignity.

I have taken the liberty of expressing my opinion and making suggestions touching this matter ; in doing which I ask the indulgence of the department. I have been actuated by a sense of duty—a desire to inform the department not only of the facts of the case, but of the results likely to arise from the designs and course of the government of Paraguay, if acquiesced in.

The box containing the treaty is still unopened, as I received it from the hands of Mr. Buckalew. Any instructions the department may honor me with shall be carried out to the best of my ability.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOS. J. PAGE, *Lieut. Commanding.*

Hon. W. L. MARCY,

Secretary of State of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Lieutenant Page to Mr. Falcon.

U. S. STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Corrientes, October 16, 1854.

SIR: The undersigned, lieutenant commanding the United States steamer Water Witch, Thomas J. Page, has the honor to inform his excellency José Falcon, secretary of state and minister of foreign relations, that he has this day received from the President of the United States a commission to act on the part of his government in the exchange of ratification of the treaty concluded between the United States and the republic of Paraguay on the 4th day of March, 1853.

With this commission the undersigned has received the treaty, which he is instructed to exchange.

The undersigned desires to be informed if he shall proceed, according to the instructions from his government, to the capital of Paraguay, for the purpose of effecting the exchange of ratification above alluded to.

The undersigned will despatch this communication by Lieutenant William H. Murdaugh, of the United States steamer Water Witch, who will, in person, hand it to his excellency, and will receive his reply.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to his excellency the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

TH. J. PAGE.

His Excellency JOSÉ FALCON,
Secretary of State, and Minister of Foreign Relations,
Asuncion, Paraguay.

Mr. Falcon to Commander Page.

[Translation.]

ASUNCION, *October 21, 1854.*

In accordance with the conditions (set forth) in my letters of the 29th and 30th of the past, I return to you your letter dated October 16, in Corrientes, written in English, without accompanying it (or me) a translation signed, wondering that you should continue in your idea of mortifying me.

Your attentive servant, "De U. S. atento servidor,"

JOSÉ FALCON.

Mr. THOMAS J. PAGE,
Commander of the Steamer Water Witch.
[Does not say where.]

Commander Page to Mr. Dobbin.

U. S. STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Parana river, February 5, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to forward to the department the enclosed report from Lieutenant Jeffers, from which it will be seen that a most unprovoked, unwarrantable, and dastardly attack has been made on the "Water Witch," while she was in the peaceable and rightful discharge of duty assigned me by the department.

On the 31st of last month I left Corrientes, with the small steamer and two boats, taking with me three of the officers and sixteen men, with the design of ascending the river Salado, in boats, if possible, should the small steamer prove inadequate. This force would have been necessary, in the event of using either the small steamer or the boats. Lieutenant Jeffers I left in charge of the Water Witch, with instructions to ascend the Parana river, so far as her draught would allow. This, I supposed, would be less than two hundred miles.

He sailed from the town of Corrientes on the 1st instant, and, as will be seen from his report, had not gone more than three miles from where the river forms the common boundary between Corrientes (one of the provinces of the Argentine Confederation) and Paraguay, when the Water Witch was fired into from a fort on the Paraguay side of the river.

The Water Witch was in the act of exploring a river which is the common boundary between these two countries. The right of each to navigate this river up to the limit of the province of Corrientes has never been questioned by either, and I had never heard that Paraguay presumed to exercise the power of preventing its navigation.

To the exploration of this portion of the Parana I had not only obtained the permission of the Argentine Confederation, and especially of the province of Corrientes, but an expression of earnest solicitude on the part of both the President of the Confederation and the governor of Corrientes had been made that I should establish the fact that the river is navigable to a much greater extent than that to which it is now known to be, of which they had some hope, but not the means of proving.

The navigation of this river to the extent of the territory of Corrientes is already secured to the flag of the United States by treaty with the Argentine Confederation. That government, so far from objecting to the Water Witch's ascending the river, had furnished me with an order, enjoining upon every province into whose waters I should enter the obligation to afford me every facility.

On what ground and for what reason the government of Paraguay has presumed to commit such an act, I am unable to conjecture. So far from the Water Witch making any hostile demonstration, she attempted to pass up the river through a channel way which was more on the Corrientes side, and, in doing so, was "run aground" by the pilot. This was seen from the fort. It was well known to the government of Paraguay, and doubtless to the commander of the fort, that the Water Witch was with a very reduced complement of

both officers and men, and consequently it could not have been her design to make an attack. The act of firing into the vessel cannot, therefore, receive the shadow of justification on the grounds of anticipating an attack. It is consequently a wanton outrage; the act of a government beyond the pale of civilization, and seemingly unconscious of the responsibility of such an outrage. This is, nevertheless, no palliation for so grave an offence.

Lieutenant Jeffers was in the act of executing instructions which he had received from me when the steamer was fired into. His course and conduct on the occasion I highly approve and commend, and I hope they will meet with the approval of the department.

It is with pain and regret that I report the death of Samuel Chaney, quartermaster. He died in two hours from the effects of wounds received from a ball and splinters. There were a few slight wounds received by others from splinters, which were so slight as not to prevent the discharge of the usual duties.

The vessel was hulled ten times, but in no point of any importance. The repairs can be readily made. I now proceed to Montevideo with the hope of obtaining from the commodore or senior officer two or three guns of suitable calibre and an addition of a few men. With this force I shall feel confident of the ability of the *Water Witch* to avenge the outrage which has been perpetrated on the flag of the United States.

I indulge the sanguine hope that the commodore will act in this matter with all the promptness which the exigencies of the case require, and that such a course will receive the approval of the department.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
TH. J. PAGE,

Lieut. Com'g United States Steamer Water Witch.

Hon. JAMES C. DOBBIN,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Lieutenant Jeffers to Commander Page.

U. S. STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Corrientes, February 2, 1855.

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions, and with the consent of the governor of the province of Corrientes, at 7 a. m. on yesterday, February 1, weighed anchor and stood up the river Parana for the purpose of making an exploration of its upper course so far as navigable, and rectifying the chart of the river up to the mouth of the Paraguay in all places where the channel had changed since the chart was made. Nothing particular occurred until 11 a. m., when we entered the Parana above the mouth of the Paraguay, (observing some movements at the Guardia "Cenito,") and continued our course diagonally across the stream towards the Corrientes shore, intending to pass between that and an island about four miles above the mouth

of the Paraguay, Guardia "Carracha," at the Paso del Rey, in sight on the right bank. At 11^h 26^m opened this station, a semicircular brick fort on an elevation of about 30 feet above the river, mounting, as well as I could ascertain, 6 guns, "*en barbette*," and shortly afterwards ran aground about a half a mile from the fort, on a sand bank making up suddenly out of deep water one fathom under the bows, 3½ at the wheel-house. A boat was sent from the guardia, which laid off observing our motions.

I immediately laid out a kedge astern, and about 12^h 15^m hauled off and let go our anchor; attempted to weigh the kedge, but lost it. While the men were at dinner, I observed the Paraguayans getting their guns ready. I shifted starboard gun to forward port, on port side of quarterdeck, cleared for action, filled forty shrapnell and twelve shells, and got up thirty stand of grape; but not supposing that anything serious would result, did not cut the rail over the port to which the gun had been shifted.

I then stationed Mr. Potts at the bell, and in charge of the deck, to assist the pilot, with directions to proceed at all hazards, unless the machinery should be disabled. Mr. Lamdin I placed in charge of the after guns, and Mr. Taylor at the engine. We mustered at quarters but twenty-eight, of whom two were sick, and five cooks and stewards.

At 1^h 20^m weighed; while weighing the anchor, the Paraguayan canoe which had been observing our movements came alongside, and a man offered me a paper printed in Spanish, which I declined to receive on the ground that I could not read it. As soon as the anchor was aweigh, I stood up the river, the crew at quarters. The pilot informed me that the only practicable channel was close to the fort, and this channel I directed him to take. On arriving within three hundred yards, I was hailed by a person, who, I am informed was the Paraguayan admiral, but I did not understand the import of the hail. Two blank cartridges were then fired from the fort in quick succession, and followed by a shot. I had given particular orders that no shot should be fired except in return, and then only by my directions; and on receiving this first fire, I directed a general fire in return.

The first shot of the enemy carried away the wheel, cut the ropes, and mortally wounded Samuel Chaney, the helmsman. A bar was soon shipped, and the vessel steered by it, but with some difficulty on account of the rapidity of the current. In a couple of minutes after the action had commenced the pilot deserted his station, and hid himself behind the engine-house. Dragged up thence by Mr. Potts, on looking around him he exclaimed, "We shall certainly ground as there is not sufficient water in the channel." By this time we had run past all the guns of the battery except one; and on learning the state of things, I left the bow gun, which I had been directing, which was no longer serviceable, and took the deck. The pilot, whom I had again to force up to his station, in a high state of excitement, repeatedly exclaimed, "We shall be aground in a moment," insisting that we could not pass up. The vessel being then in ten feet water—drawing nine—I was reluctantly compelled to back down past the battery, exposed to a severe fire, which, from the position of the vessel being nearly bows on, I could not return. On getting out of range

I anchored, repaired damages, and filled more ammunition, having observed the Paraguayan war steamer "Taquari" firing up.

I am satisfied the pilot was not in the channel; but in his state of fright nothing could be done with him, and to have grounded would have been to insure the loss of the vessel, as it is said that the Paraguayans have at this point six thousand men and a numerous artillery, to arrest the passage of the Brazilian fleet. The "Taquari," with their gun-boats, would alone have been an overwhelming force. At 3 p. m. weighed anchor and returned to Corrientes.

It had been my intent to attack the Guardia "Cenito," where a gun boat was lying. The "Taquari" dropped down and anchored there for its defence, which made the odds too great for any hope of a successful attack with my little crew of 28 men, and the armament one 24 and two 12 pound howitzer boat guns. Although so superior in force, the "Taquari" made no demonstration of following us.

The amount of damage sustained by the enemy it is difficult to estimate. Mr. Bushell, the clerk, who was directed by me to take notes of the action, states that one of their guns was dismounted, and, from the good explosions of several of the shrapnell, some execution must have taken place. A battery of this nature exposes so few men that I cannot estimate their loss as very great. I am confident that, had all the officers and men been on board, we should have killed or driven them from their guns, and taken the battery; but I must do them the justice to say that I saw no signs of flinching. The fire was slow but remarkably well directed.

It will, I hope, be evident, from the preceding details, that this attack was as unprovoked as it was unexpected; but, following the dictates of prudence, I was not unprepared for such a result. It is not a little remarkable that at no time, either before or after the engagement, was any flag displayed.

In conclusion, I must fulfill an agreeable duty in bearing witness to the zealous manner in which the engineers of this ship supported me on this occasion. Mr. Potts was in charge of the deck; Mr. Lamdin of a division of guns; and the latter assisted personally in loading after some of his men had deserted from their quarters. The engine was worked by Mr. Taylor with as much promptitude as on ordinary occasions.

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM N. JEFFERS,

Lieutenant in Command.

Lieutenant Commander THOMAS J. PAGE.

Commander Page to Mr. Marcy.

[Extract.]

UNITED STATES STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Montevideo, January, 28, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the department that, being about to leave these waters, their exploration, so far as it is open to me,

having been completed, I have deposited in the legation at Buenos Ayres, under the charge of the resident minister, the treaty of which I was commissioned to exchange the ratification with the government of Paraguay.

Immediately on the refusal of President Lopez to receive my communication, informing him of my instructions from my government relative to the exchange of ratification, I communicated the fact to the State Department; also, that I would keep the treaty in my possession until further instructed. Having received no instructions relative to the matter, I have concluded that the best course for me to pursue is to leave the treaty in the legation at Buenos Ayres, subject to the orders of the department. * * *

I have the honor, sir, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. PAGE.

Lt. Commanding U. S. Steamer Water Witch.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY,

Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Marcy to Mr. Fitzpatrick.

[Extract.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 5, 1856.

SIR: * * * * *

It is deemed advisable that you should propose an exchange of the ratifications of the treaty with Paraguay, which was concluded on the 4th of March, 1853.

* * * * *

You will herewith receive a letter introducing you to the minister of foreign affairs of Paraguay. On presenting it, and on other occasions when you may have intercourse with him, and with other persons in authority there, you will endeavor to convey an impression of the strong desire of the President to maintain friendly relations with that country, and of his hope that this disposition will be reciprocated.

Your first business will be to propose an exchange of the ratifications of the treaty, for which you are authorized by the accompanying power from the President. If your proposition for this purpose should be objected to, you will endeavor to meet the objections. There is no information in this department which enables it to anticipate what they may be, or, indeed, that there is any just cause for a rejection of the treaty.

* * * * *

I am, sir, &c., &c.,

W. L. MARCY.

RICHARD FITZPATRICK, Esq.

[Extract.]—Translation.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY!

ASUNCION, November 8, 1856.

The Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Paraguay to Mr. Richard Fitzpatrick, Special Commissioner of his Excellency the President of the United States of North America, near the government of the Republic of Paraguay.

I have the honor to address myself to the special commissioner of his excellency the President of the United States of America, to say to him that I have observed in his credential letter of the 30th of July of this year his special authorization for the sole purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the treaty of the 4th of March, 1853, and that the honorable Secretary of State of the United States, in a note which he has addressed to me, dated the 5th of August last, makes known that you have been appointed special commissioner to confer with me on all the matters connected with the interests and relations of our respective governments.

It is requisite, therefore, that you should be pleased to declare the objects of said special commission, in order that we may understand the halt in the pending questions in regard to the complaints of this government against that of the United States for the serious offences offered to it by the scandalous hostilities of the commanding officers of the Water Witch, a United States vessel-of-war.

* * * * *

I avail myself of this opportunity to salute the special commissioner with my most distinguished consideration and esteem.

NICOLAS VAZQUEZ.

[Translation.]

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY!

ASUNCION, November 8, 1856.

The Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Paraguay to Mr. Richard Fitzpatrick, Special Commissioner of his Excellency the President of the United States of North America, near the government of the Republic of Paraguay.

I have the honor to address myself to the special commissioner of his excellency the President of the United States of America, to say to him that I have observed in his credential letter of the 30th of July of this year his special authorization for the sole purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the treaty of the 4th of March, 1853, and that the honorable Secretary of State of the United States, in a note which he has addressed to me, dated the 5th of August last, makes known that you have been appointed special commissioner to

confer with me on all the matters connected with the interests and relations of our respective governments.

It is requisite, therefore, that you should be pleased to declare the objects of said special commission, in order that we may understand the halt in the pending questions in regard to the complaints of this government against that of the United States for the serious offences offered to it by the scandalous hostilities of the commanding officers of the *Water Witch*, a United States vessel-of-war, under circumstances that this department has not yet received an answer to the notes which it addressed to the honorable Secretary of State of the United States in regard to the unprovoked outrages of said commanding officers of the *Water Witch*.

Nor do we know whether the government of the United States wishes to interfere in the claim which has been announced by Edward A. Hopkins, an American, against this government, when, at his request, he has been allowed to depart freely, together with all the members of what he called the "United States Navigation Company," abandoning the little property of the company, itself burdened with a debt of ten thousand dollars, that it received from the national treasury at an annual interest of six per cent., when no one would lend it a dollar to pay its matured obligations which it had deceptively contracted. The government of the republic ordered this aid to be given without bond or security of any kind, and only on the obligation of said company to save the honor of a consul of the United States in this city—a favor which Hopkins has requited by unheard of insolences, and by excesses which at last occasioned the supreme decree revoking the exequatur that had been accorded to his credentials as consul of the United States in Paraguay.

In all these outrages and hostilities the government of the republic has been seriously offended, and there is due to it satisfaction instead of claims for millions of dollars, by which Hopkins has thought to intimidate the government of the republic.

It is proper, therefore, to know the determination of the government of the United States in regard to the said outrages of the commanding officers of the *Water Witch*, and in regard to the pretended claims of Hopkins, in order to perceive whether the occasion has arrived to make a plain and full exchange of ratifications of the treaty of the 4th of March, 1853; and to this end you will be pleased to answer this note.

I avail myself of this opportunity to salute the special commissioner with my most distinguished consideration and esteem.

NICOLAS VAZQUEZ.

[Translation.]

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY, *November 10, 1856.*

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your excellency's note, dated the 8th instant, and in reply have the honor to inform your excellency

that my mission near the government of the republic of Paraguay is solely for the purpose of exchanging the ratifications of the treaty concluded on the part of the United States of America, by Mr. Pendleton, with the republic of Paraguay, on the 4th of March, 1853, as is stated in my credential letter from the President of the United States of America, which I have had the honor to present to his excellency the President of the republic.

On the said treaty being exchanged, I consider my mission near the republic ended.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to your excellency my high consideration and respect.

RICHARD FITZPATRICK,
*Special Commissioner of the President of the United States
 of America for the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty
 with the republic of Paraguay.*

To his Excellency Señor Don NICOLAS VAZQUEZ,
Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Paraguay.

[Translated.]

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY!

The Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Paraguay to Mr. Richard Fitzpatrick, Special Commissioner of his Excellency the President of the United States of North America, near the government of the Republic of Paraguay.

ASUNCION, November 15, 1856.

I have had the honor to lay before his excellency the President of the republic the difficulty to which we have adverted in effecting the exchange of the ratification by his excellency with that by his excellency the President of the United States of North America, of the treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, concluded in this capital on the 4th of March, 1853, between the plenipotentiaries of the two governments, in consideration that the government of this republic, on the recommendation of its council of state, has, on the 12th of March, 1853, plainly and fully ratified the said treaty of the 4th of the same month, and that the government of the United States of North America has, on the 1st of June, 1854, given its ratification, with thirty-two amendments made by the Senate of the United States, and with the extension of the fifteen months stipulated for in article sixteen of the treaty to twenty-four months, for the exchange of the ratifications; and I am directed to say to you, as I now do, that his excellency the President of the republic cannot consent to an exchange of a plain and full ratification of said treaty of the 4th of March, 1853, with the ratification which his excellency the President of the United States has given to the said treaty, with the aforesaid amendments, of which amendments you have been so good as to transmit me a copy of the English amended text and its translation into Spanish.

I am likewise directed by his excellency the President of the republic to make known to you that his excellency is in the best disposition to renew the negotiations of a treaty of friendship, commerce, and navigation, as soon as his excellency the President of the United States may desire to send a plenipotentiary to this city for the purpose, with suitable instructions.

With such an opportunity, the pending questions, to which I have referred in my previous note to you of the 8th instant, can be settled, it not being easy to continue longer without a solution which shall strengthen the good understanding of the two governments.

I avail myself of this occasion to reiterate to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration and esteem.

NICOLAS VAZQUEZ.

[Translation.]

REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY,

Asuncion, November 18, 1856.

The undersigned, special commissioner of the United States of America near the republic of Paraguay, has had the honor to receive the note of the honorable minister of foreign relations of the republic of Paraguay, dated the 15th instant.

The undersigned cannot perceive the difficulty mentioned in the note of the minister of foreign relations.

The treaty made at Asuncion on the 4th of March, 1853, is not written in the terms which are employed in other treaties between the United States of America and foreign nations with whom it has treated. The expressions "United States of North America," "North American Union," &c., are not found in those treaties; that of "the United States of America" only is used; and the Senate of the United States of America will assuredly amend the language of every treaty with any nation or power previous to its ratification.

In the treaty between the republic of Paraguay and the United States of America, the terms "United States of North America," "North American Union," &c., are frequently used; but this is to be attributed entirely to the carelessness of the representative of the United States of America, and not to the representative of the republic of Paraguay.

The undersigned desires to call the attention of his excellency the minister of foreign relations to the fact that the emendations made by the Senate of the United States of America are only corrections, and not alterations, either of the sense of the treaty or of the obligations of the high contracting parties.

It is only necessary that the ratification of his excellency the President of the republic of Paraguay should include the amendments made by the Senate of the United States of America, and this by his ratification of the exchange in the Spanish language and in duplicate. Nothing more is requisite to render the treaty valid.

With respect to the alteration of time by the Senate of the United States of America, from fifteen months to twenty-four months the

undersigned is unable to perceive that any default can be attributed to the high contracting parties by the lapse of time between the signing of the treaty and the exchange of its ratifications; the distance between the two countries is very great, and the means of conveyance not at all certain, and there may arise other causes of delay which cannot be foreseen by either the republic of Paraguay or the United States of America. If the ratification should be now exchanged, notwithstanding the time named in the amendments of the Senate of the United States of America (twenty-four months) has already passed, no difficulty will arise hereafter.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew his assurances of high consideration and respect.

RICHARD FITZPATRICK.

His Excellency SEÑOR DON NICOLAS VAZQUEZ,

Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Paraguay.

LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY!

The Minister of Foreign relations of the Republic of Paraguay, to Mr. Richard Fitzpatrick, Special Commissioner of the United States of North America near the government of the Republic of Paraguay.

ASUNCION, November 26, 1856.

I have had the honor to receive the note that you addressed to me on the 18th instant, in which you observe that the treaty made at Asuncion on the 4th of March, 1853, is not written in the terms employed in other treaties between the United States and foreign nations with whom it has treated, and attribute this entirely to the carelessness of the plenipotentiary of the United States who concluded and signed that treaty.

You quote the amendments that the Senate of the United States has made to the said treaty of the 4th of March, and conclude that it is necessary that his excellency the President of the republic should include in his ratification of the exchange in the Spanish language and in duplicate the amendments made by the Senate of the United States, and that nothing more is necessary to render the treaty valid.

His excellency the President of the republic, on the recommendation of his council of state, has, on the 12th of March, 1853, plainly and fully ratified the said treaty of the 4th of the same month, as I have made known to you in our official conference; and, in this posture of the affair, it is not easy for his excellency the President of the republic to submit to a new ratification in the terms which you propose; and, in communicating this decision, I acknowledge the reception of your said note of the 18th, reproducing my note of the 15th instant, and close this correspondence.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to the special commissioner of the United States the assurance of my distinguished consideration and esteem.

NICOLAS VAZQUEZ.

Commander Page to Mr. Toucey.

[Extract.]

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
August 4, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the communication of the 29th ult., accompanied by despatches from the government of Paraguay, under date of October 3d and 4th, 1855, and from Mr. James A. Peden, resident minister of the United States near the government of the Argentine Confederation, asking of me such explanatory statement as I may have in my power to make.

The attack made upon the United States steamer *Water Witch*, on the 1st of February, 1855, by the Paraguay fort "Itapiru," was reported to the department in my communication under date of the 5th of the same month, enclosing a more detailed account of that outrage, from Lieutenant Jeffers, who, at the time alluded to, was the commanding officer of the vessel, I, accompanied by the other officers and the better part of the crew, having left for a distant, and, as I supposed, a more dangerous exploration. For the facts explanatory of this attack, I refer the department to those despatches, and to the accompanying paper, marked A, which I feel it my duty to lay before the public in justification of the course of the *Water Witch*, and in refutation of a presumptuous claim made by President Lopez to the exclusive jurisdiction of that part of the Parana river where she was fired into.

The despatch, dated February 4, 1855, of Mr. José Falcon, secretary of state of the Paraguay government, to the Secretary of State of the United States, on the subject of the attack upon the *Water Witch*, accompanied by a fancy sketch of what purported to be a representation of the country in the immediate vicinity of the fort Itapiru, of the course of the channel, and of the movements of the vessel, require some special notice. It was published in the papers of Buenos Ayres soon after its date, and the sketch alluded to was for sale in the bookstores. So soon as the letter had made its appearance, I informed the department of the glaring attempt on the part of President Lopez to deceive the public, and enclosed a faithful representation of the place, the course of the *Water Witch*, her point of grounding, and the depth of water of the two branches of the river up to the point at which she was fired into. I now enclose them both, reduced to the same scale, that the department may judge of the fraud designed to be practised by President Lopez upon the Secretary of State and upon the public. When the chief magistrate of a nation will presume, in his official correspondence with the head of a foreign power, so grossly to deceive and pervert the truth, he seems really to descend to a political state which renders his correspondence unworthy of notice. President Lopez is very much in this condition at this time among the States of La Plata. His communication alluded to (for the name of Mr. José Falcon appended to it is a mere matter of form) is full of misrepresentation.

One of the gravest charges he brings against me having the semblance of truth is, that "he (I) had caused steam to be put up and ordered the guns to be loaded, &c., whenever the attempt should be made to prevent the departure of Mr. Hopkins and other Americans on board the steamer."

He aims to convince our government that there was no desire or attempt to arrest the departure of the Americans from Asuncion, when they had been informed, on applying at the custom-house for the permit to remove or ship their property, that the permit would not be granted until they had surrendered the deeds, &c., held by the company as evidence of its rightful possession of certain real estate in Paraguay.

I informed the secretary of state that the papers demanded represented the property of citizens of the United States, and could not be given up, and that if permission were not granted to the Americans to leave the country by the usual mode of conveyance I should take them away in the *Water Witch*, and specified the time when I should do so, in order to enable the government to retract its prohibition. The hour came, and not until the government saw the Americans and their effects being received on board of the vessel did it issue the permit. The entire statement of my manner of treating the passports of the Americans, his correspondence, &c., is a tissue of misrepresentation. Their passports I never saw, and the correspondence he alludes to I gave into the hands of two officers, with instructions to deliver them to the captain of the port, which they reported having done, as ordered, and I have no doubt but that the duty was discharged in the most civil and polite manner. Were I to particularize the misrepresentations contained in this communication, and confute them, *seriatim*, it would protract this paper unnecessarily. I beg leave to refer you to my letter of September 29, 1854. The paper marked A, which appeared in the public journals of Buenos Ayres, is the only notice I took of the low abuse published in the "*Seminario*," the official organ in Paraguay, because of my interference in the protection of the Americans then residing in that country. I was aware that the libelous pen of President Lopez was fully understood in the neighboring states, and that to notice his article would only stimulate him to further abuse. But when he attempted to show that the *Water Witch* had infringed a national right, I felt it my duty to inform the public of the fraud, and show that she was justified in being where she was by every principle of international law.

With regard to the decree of the 3d of February, 1855, prohibiting foreign men-of-war from entering the waters claimed by Paraguay, I am not aware that it has been officially revoked; but I am informed, by correspondence from Buenos Ayres and from President Lopez's official communication to the Paraguay congress, that men-of-war of Brazil, of England, and of France have, within the past year, been within the waters claimed by that government, and have visited Asuncion, the capital. I presume, therefore, that the decree has been virtually, if not officially, annulled. * * * *

A.

UNITED STATES STEAMER WATER WITCH,
Montevideo, March 9, 1855.

MR. EDITOR: I recognize in you paper of the — March an article copied from the “Seminario,” as the production of the President of “the republic.” It is with profound respect and all due deference that I presume to differ, in the construction of any point of international law, with a person of his deep learning, enlarged, liberal, and intelligent views, and of his elevated position; but in the article alluded to, touching the glorious attack made by the fort at Itapiru upon the Water Witch, there are exclusive rights assumed for the government of Paraguay, which, it appears to my humble judgment, are not sanctioned by the laws of nations.

On the question whether there are or not two, three, or more channels in the river Parana, between the shores of Paraguay and Corrientes, and whether the main channel is or is not on the Corrientes side, I shall not presume to advance an opinion at variance with that of his excellency, because *his* should be taken as the very *best authority*; but I hope I may be permitted to state, in justification of the Water Witch being out of the main channel, as established by his excellency, that she was being directed by a pilot, who had been recommended to me, and that it is our custom, on board of American vessels, to concede to pilots the right to give the course and direction. This pilot, having something of an instinctive dread of this Paraguay fort, endeavored to discover a channel on the Corrientes side, and, in doing so, ran the steamer aground in six feet water. To haul her off occupied a short time and occasioned the loss of an anchor, which, singular to say, was neither seen at the fort (notwithstanding the laughing of the men on board was heard) nor mentioned in any of the luminous effusions on the subject from Paraguay.

The pilot failing to discover a channel on the Corrientes side, and having been told previously in Corrientes, as subsequently came to light, that he must at this point keep close to the Paraguay shore, directed the vessel into that channel after she had been gotten afloat.

This is tolerably good evidence to me that there was no channel of more than six feet at that time on the Corrientes side; and moreover, that the main channel of the river was on the Paraguay side. But as his excellency is of a different opinion, I will not presume to argue the point. I simply indulge the hope that it may suit the wisdom of his excellency to call in requisition some of the abundant intellectual resources of Paraguay, for the establishment of the fact that “the narrow channel of the Parana at Itapiru is not the main channel.” I feel satisfied that I may assume the responsibility of satisfying his excellency that any expedition of the kind designed by Paraguay will meet with no opposition from the Argentine government in ascending the *main channel* on the Corrientes side—at least I do not think that his exploring vessel will be fired into.

This difference of opinion between his excellency and myself as to the direction of the main channel is not a matter of such grave im-

port as is that touching the exclusive right to, or exclusive jurisdiction over, that part of the Parana as is set forth in the communication alluded to.

President Lopez says: "Why absolutely persist in infringing a measure, a rule which the government of Paraguay, in pursuance of its rights, has established, governing the narrow channel in front of Itapiru? Why aim to force this passage, when the principal channel on the Corrientes side is free to all the world?"

Here is one channel of a river, the common boundary between the Argentine Confederation and Paraguay, claimed by the government of Paraguay as her exclusive right, because it is more on the Paraguay side of the river; while with magnanimous generosity the channel on the Corrientes side, if there be one, is by the same government declared "free to all the world."

This may be in accordance with some new code of international law which has been established by his excellency, and for the government of nations that may aspire to friendly relations with the government of Paraguay; but it certainly is at variance with the principles of the code which is recognized by most nations as the "law of nations."

I quote "Wheaton on the Laws of Nations," (page 242:) "Where a navigable river forms the boundary of conterminous states, the middle of the channel or thalweg is generally taken as the line of separation between the two states, the presumption of law being that the right of navigation is common to both," &c. Page 243: "It seems that this right draws after it the incidental right of using all the means which are necessary to secure enjoyment of the principal right itself. Thus the Roman law, which considered navigable rivers as public or common property, declared that the right to the use of the shores was incident to that of the water, and that the right to navigate a river involved the right to moor vessels to its banks, to load and unload cargoes, &c. The public jurists apply this principle of the Roman civil law to the same case between nations, and infer the right to use the adjacent land for these purposes, as means necessary to the attainment of the end for which the free navigation of the water is permitted."

Page 244: "By the treaty of Vienna, in 1815, the commercial navigation of rivers, which separate different States, or flow through their respective territories, was declared to be entirely free in their whole course, from the point where each river becomes navigable to its mouth," &c.

At page 248: "The right of the United States to participate with Spain in the navigation of the river Mississippi was rested by the American government on the sentiment written in deep characters on the heart of man, that the ocean is free to all men, and its rivers to all their inhabitants. This natural right was found to be universally acknowledged and protected in all tracts of country, united under the same political society, by laying the navigable rivers open to all their inhabitants."

At page 351: "It was a principle that the right to a thing gives a right to the means, without which it could not be used, that is to say, that the means follow the end. Thus a right to navigate a river

draws to it a right to moor vessels to its shores, to land on them in cases of distress or for other necessary purposes. This principle was founded in natural reason, was evidenced by the common sense of mankind, and declared by the writers (the principal writer on international law) before quoted.

Judging from the above quotations, it does appear to me that there is guarantied by the law of nations to the Argentine Confederation—one of the “conterminous states”—the free and peaceful use of the river Parana *in all its parts*, regardless of this or that channel, wheresoever it may form the common boundary between the Confederation and Paraguay. This being granted, I then claim, under authority from the Argentine Confederation, the right for the Water Witch to explore any and every portion of the Parana river which she, as one of the conterminous states, would have the right to navigate.

I do not propose to enter into the discussion or decision of questions of disputed limits between Paraguay and the other states—for there would be as many questions as she has contiguous states; but I do assert, notwithstanding I differ with such high and learned authority as the President of Paraguay, that every principle of international law, right, and propriety, justified the Water Witch in ascending the Parana to the extent of the territory of the Argentine Confederation, and to the use of any part of that river within those limits.

However widely we may differ on this point, there is one sentiment advanced by his excellency, in which it gives me pleasure to assure him that we agree most perfectly, and that is his anticipation as to the tone of public opinion amongst all civilized nations touching the attack upon the Water Witch. He expresses himself thus: “Already we seem to read in the columns of foreign periodicals the attack upon or conflict with the Water Witch represented in a false light. It will be said that a vessel engaged in a scientific work, at the moment in which she was determining the topographic position of this or that point, was attacked and sunk by a horde of savages! Already we are prepared to hear that Paraguay is a country behind the age, wanting in intelligence, that by her progress and science are trodden down, and such is her hatred to foreigners that she would sooner hold communication with the ferocious beasts of the desert.”

I agree with his excellency that such will unquestionably be the estimation in which this act will be held by the civilized nations of the earth; but as the government alone is responsible for such an outrage upon international right and courtesy, the people of Paraguay, who are very good people, should not suffer in public estimation from an act which, I feel assured, they neither counseled nor approved. Now, Mr. Editor, I think we are irresistibly brought to the conclusion that the Water Witch, with an armament of three boat howitzers, designed as a defence solely against savages, with a crew diminished by one-half in efficiency, and with one officer, save the engineers, (the other officers and the rest of the crew having been detailed for other duty,) while in the rightful and peaceable exploration of a river, in which exploration the whole world is as much interested as the United States, and their neighboring states more than any others, is fired into by order of President Lopez; that a fort is armed and

garrisoned ; an encampment formed of thousands of soldiers to arrest the Water Witch in her scientific work, and then she is fired into, as though she aimed at a demolition of the whole encampment. The scene at the encampment is thus graphically described by his excellency, which certainly does honor to the *gallant* defenders of their country against *such odds* : "In order to understand how, at the first intelligence of the occurrence at Itapiru, in the encampment of the Paso de la Patria, all the troops put themselves in motion, each soldier believed that the hour of combat had arrived, and enthusiasm pervaded the ranks as if the country were in danger and each man had been called to defend his threatened fireside."

With this view of the case, as set forth under authority of international law, and with the representation of the occurrences as given by President Lopez, I agree with him perfectly in this anticipation as to the opinion which every civilized community will form of the government of Paraguay.

Permit me, Mr. Editor, before concluding this communication, to quote from an editorial in your paper of the 2d. You say : "In view of the accounts as given on both sides, we should in truth declare that had we found ourselves in the place of the commandant of Itapiru, we should have done as he did ; that is, have fired into the Water Witch."

In this opinion I agree with you perfectly ; but, Mr. Editor, will you take one step further, and inform your readers had you been in the situation of President Lopez would you have issued such orders to the commandant of Itapiru ?

TH. J. PAGE.

B.

ELIZABETH CITY, *Union County, N. J.*, July 30, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR : Your letter of the 20th reached me on the 25th. I am astonished to learn the course you state that Mr. Peden has pursued, and agree with you fully in the statement in relation to the men ; the report you made, and the disposition of the man whom you reported as being irresponsible for his own conduct—in other terms, as "*non compos mentis*."

I have no recollection of your leaving with me a written report ; I find none among my papers. Should I, however, come across such a paper I will send it to you. My impression is that you retained the statement of the circumstances of the men's conduct.

Truly yours,

W. D. SALTER.

Captain THOS. J. PAGE, U. S. N.,
Washington, D. C.

Statement of Commander Page.

It has occurred to me that in setting forth the acts of usurpation of President Lopez against the American company, which had been established in Paraguay under such favorable auspices, that the "*quo animo*" of the men should be made to appear, which, according to public opinion throughout the whole country of La Plata, as well as in Paraguay, wheresoever this opinion could be arrived at, was to reap for his own personal benefit the profits likely to accrue to this company. In one branch of its operations, (the cigar factory,) a number of hands (women) had been instructed in the making of cigars, so far as to make it a difficult matter to distinguish by appearance their manufacture from the best of Havana make. On the breaking up of the American company, one of President Lopez's sons immediately went into the cigar business, with these same operatives.

President Lopez is, in addition to his supremacy in the government and over the nation, the great farmer and merchant of Paraguay. Throughout the country there are well stocked estencias and stores of goods, in which his family is directly interested. Whatsoever conflicts with his pecuniary interests would of course meet with his opposition and consequent failure; he should, therefore, be made a partner in all enterprizes set on foot by foreigners, otherwise their success would be problematical.

Yours, very respectfully,

TH. J. PAGE.

The general opinion here is that President Lopez, who did not at first believe in the success of your enterprize, when he learned the near arrival of your steamboats, laid hold of the first pretext to violate the property of the company, and to expel it from the country, because it gave him umbrage. Under the name of the state he monopolizes all to the profit of his family, and will not permit a serious rivalry in his commercial transactions, which embrace all branches. North American industry and energy ought, then, to be the first sacrificed.

EUG. GUILLEMOT,

Chargé des Interets Francais au Paraguay.

E.

The United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, composed of citizens of different States of the Union, acting under a charter granted by the general assembly of Rhode Island, respectfully submit the following statement of their claim upon the government of Paraguay, and the grounds thereof.

Many of the members of said company having been heretofore largely engaged in foreign commerce, and being desirous of opening the interior waters of South America to American trade and industry, trusted to the favorable disposition of the government of Paraguay to such enterprises, as declared by the public decree of that government of 20th May, 1845. These decrees set forth that "the supreme national government, desiring to develop and stimulate the industry of the great body of the people of the republic, and considering that one of the means most adequate to this result is to define and secure the conditions and rights of all who shall unite for such useful ends, decree," among other things, "article 3d, that whoever shall introduce into the republic any foreign discovery shall enjoy the same advantages as if he was the inventor;" among which advantages, in article 5th, is "the exclusive enjoyment of the patent for from five to ten years;" and that law was applied by the secretary of state of that country to an enterprise such as was undertaken by this company, as appears in a letter from that gentleman, then engaged in a special mission to the court of Brazil, addressed to the then late special agent from the government of the United States to Paraguay, dated Rio Janeiro, December 15, 1848, from which the following extract is submitted: "In the said decree President Lopez has resolved all questions which could arise in regard to privileges and premiums. If you introduce into the country machines, or new means of industry which the country does not now possess, this decree gives you the monopoly for ten years at least, and you do not require a special concession."

The official gazette contains decrees securing to foreigners further benefits of naturalization, but the members of this company preferred that their agents and employés, whether engaged in manufactures or commerce, should at all times have the protection of American citizenship, and in the prosecution of the entire enterprise they relied with the fullest confidence upon the power and the disposition of their own government to protect from outrage and spoliation the persons and property of American citizens.

The company being prepared, by the long commercial experience of some of its members, by the researches of others into all the published sources of information as to the productions of the interior of South America, and also by the personal observation of its president and of its general agent in that region, invested in the two expeditions to Paraguay a capital of some \$300,000, in the purchase of sail and steam vessels, in articles of American manufacture, and in a great variety of machines and implements, such as steam engines, saw mills, cotton gins, planing machines, sugar mills, brick machines, rice mills,

agricultural tools, &c., &c., a particular inventory of which was attached to the memorial now on file in the Department of State; and sent out a large corps of mechanics and others skilled in the use of such machinery, and in the care of such vessels, and in the conduct of the various departments of business in which they were to be employed.

A complete account of the amount and mode of this expenditure, and of the persons and articles sent to said country, has been presented, under the oath of the officers of the company. The company are ready to exhibit vouchers or any further verification thereof that the department may require.

Notwithstanding unforeseen delays, upon the arrival of the expedition at Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, in October, 1853, the agents of the company were received with the greatest favor. Permission to purchase land was conceded by the president; the use of government barracks was granted to the company, free of expense, for the use of their employés; a loan of money was made upon the credit of the company for a term of two years; a large number of persons were impressed by the government, and paid by the company, to work in their cigar factory and other establishments.

The president, Lopez, accepted, in his official capacity, the presents sent him by the company, and granted many other extraordinary facilities for their operations. In verification of these statements, we refer to the affidavit of W. E. Hines, general cashier of the company in Paraguay, hereunto annexed.

The government of Paraguay has never denied, but makes a boast of, these facts. We give an instance of its decrees for our benefit, and also the letter accepting and returning presents.

"The justice of peace of Ipiané will select from the natives of the suppressed community ten men, bachelors or married, of good conduct and assiduous in labor, and will deliver them to the citizen of the United States, Mr. Edward Augustus Hopkins, to be destined to work for him during one year in his establishment at San Antonio, with the monthly wages of three dollars, which he offers to pay, and providing victuals, upon the condition that every Saturday, after concluding the labors of the day, they can retire to their lodgings, and will present themselves the following Monday at daybreak; and that they will receive said salary every two months, on condition, also, that if any one of the ten individuals should happen not to be of good character required, they will be withdrawn with less wages for the days they have had hire in proportion to that assigned to men of labor, and will be supplied by men capable of performing the labors of the contract, it being recommended to said justice of peace to make the best choice of workmen. The same order will be understood on the same terms by the justice of peace of Guarambaré."

Letter of President Lopez, accepting presents.

ASUNCION, November 11, 1853.

MY ESTEEMED SIR: I had the pleasure of receiving your estimable note of the 9th instant, in which, pursuant to instruction, "the president and directors of the navigation company present the governor of the republic with a flag, worked in silk by the ladies of the shareholders of the company."

I have also received another letter of the same date, in which your honor offers for my acceptance a carriage, as a gift offered to my person. You will allow me to answer you on these two referred favors, accepting, as I do, with due appreciation, in the name of the government of the republic, the two mentioned presents; although your honor was pleased to express that the carriage was a particular offer to my person, because, appreciating as I do this declaration, I could not help remarking an inscription on a plate adhered to said carriage, "presented to his excellency the president of the republic," without expressing my name—a circumstance which does not allow my delicacy to accept it as made to my person, but to the governor, who, it is notorious, bears the title of the president of the republic.

With this friendly explanation, I am much obliged to your honor, and to the company which you represent, and beg you will have the goodness to accept what the collector general has orders to offer you, as a small demonstration of the esteem and gratitude of this government.

I have the pleasure of renewing to your honor the security of my sincere and friendly regards.

Your most obedient,

CARLO ANTONIO LOPEZ.

Mr. EDWARD A. HOPKINS,

Consul of the United States.

Encouraged by this reception, and yet more by our knowledge of the products of the country, consisting, among other things, of valuable woods, of which twenty varieties were sent us, of a large collection of gums and resins, including India rubber, many of which were analyzed by Doctor A. J. Hayes, a copy of which analysis was presented with the original memorial to the Department of State, and which furnished every encouragement to prosecute the enterprise with renewed zeal, and, still further, by the great profit of some 400 per cent. realized upon the manufactured tobacco of Paraguay, the company equipped a second expedition, which sailed in June, 1854, destined directly for Paraguay.

While the company were thus engaged at home, their agents had purchased a large building in Asuncion for a cigar factory, and had instructed for many months more than 100 operatives in that business; they had selected and purchased a mill site at San Antonio, four leagues from the capital, where their steam engine and saw mills were already in most profitable employ, and were engaged in setting up their other machinery, and had organized a system of trade with the people in the natural products of the country.

San Antonio is situated twelve miles south of the city of Asuncion,

in one of the most densely populated districts of Paraguay. Vessels of two feet greater draught of water can be taken alongside of the shore than can ever go to Asuncion all the year round, on account of the intervening bar of Lambaré. During our possession of it its business greatly increased, and eleven vessels were there at one time loading fruits, vegetables, &c., of the country, for exportation to the lower provinces. The advantage of the locality is seen at once, when we remember that it is exactly opposite the southern mouth of the Pilcomayo river, which comes down from the silver mines of Potosi, in Bolivia, and in full sight of inexhaustible forests in the Chaco, of the finest timber in the world, to be had for the cutting, and situated upon the immediate banks of the Pilcomayo, which would float it to the door of our mills. The saw mill was upon the immediate bank of the river Paraguay, which presented there a natural wharf of stone sufficient for vessels drawing fifteen feet of water. On the north side of the mill the Paraguay river received the permanent stream of San Antonio, the only one furnishing any water power within fifteen hundred miles of navigation from the ocean on either bank of the rivers Parana and Paraguay, which rivers, as d'Azara has long since published, offer no mill sites, nor sufficient declinations of stream or altitude of banks, to permit the construction of dams. The saw mill in operation at San Antonio, running ten hours in the day, cut over 700 feet of timber.—(See depositions of Ferguson and Boyd.) The price currents of Buenos Ayres show that the price of lumber in that market varies from fifty to sixty-two and a half cents per running vara of thirty four inches. The company had sent out, in the second expedition, eight additional saws, knowing that Buenos Ayres is one of the largest lumber markets in the world, and the supply of timber in the forests adjacent to San Antonio was inexhaustible, and that there was no other saw mill south of the equator east of the Andes, and no mill site for fifteen hundred miles on these rivers but our own. These saws alone would bring us \$275,000 per annum. In reference to the cigar factory, the refuse or badly made cigars from the apprentices' hands, were sold at the door of the factory for ten dollars per thousand.—(See company books.) Cigars sold in Providence at twenty and thirty dollars per thousand, (see books of the agents in Providence,) cost two dollars and fifty cents to three dollars per thousand.—(See books of the company.) Hence the net profits were 400 to 500 per cent. At the time of stoppage we were making 250,000 per month, and should have been making, long ere this, if unmolested, at least one million per month. For 115 operatives, (the number at work when closed,) when another six months or a year had made them skilful, would make 300 per day each, or in twenty-six days, 7,800 per month, which, multiplied by 115, equals 897,000; for which estimate we refer with entire confidence to our own apprentice books now under seal, and also to any cigar makers in the United States or Cuba.

We had, as proved by our books, one hundred and forty people in our employ at the time in which Lopez shut up our factories, who were gaining from three to ten dollars per month—fabulous prices to be gained by Paraguayans, and never equalled before or since. What, then, would have been our gains if we had been allowed to place in

operation our sugar mills, flour mill, brick machine, planing mill, cotton gins, rice mills, &c., only awaiting their turns to be put up.

The price of common brown sugar was twenty-five cents per pound—cost of manufacture to us two cents; of bricks, twenty-four dollars per thousand—to us three dollars; of lumber, the running vara of thirty-four inches, fifty to sixty-two and a half cents—to us the manufacture ten cents; and all other things of first necessity in equal ratio. We should have had to-day in our employ fifteen hundred persons enriching and civilizing the country.

The second expedition took out some twenty-two additional artisans, among them machinists and engineers, saw mill men, coopers and packers, carpenters, joiners, and steamboat men for two steamers, all with their implements of industry—worthless in a country like Buenos Ayres, devoid of streams and trees. By the cooper establishment alone we expected to make many thousands of dollars per annum in saving the enormous quantity of hides wasted in Paraguay by packing in them the exports of the country, such as yerba, tobacco, sugar, molasses, (far better preserved in wood,) as well as in supplying the lower provinces, and the cities of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo with pipes and barrels now and always worth enormous prices.

On all this machinery, by the organic law of the country, we were, and still are, entitled to from five to ten years patent right.—(See decree of May, 1845.)

Imagine such an interest in the lumber trade of the whole valley of the Parana and La Plata, to say nothing of any other branch of industry! These are the thoughts and inducements which caused us to place our capital in that distant country. We have no hesitation in saying that, to the best of our belief, the full amount of indemnity claimed by us is far below what our attention, energies, and capital would have most surely given to us. California and Australia have done much more than we claim here for men who never meddled with the mines; whereas Paraguay and adjoining countries are Californias in wealth, with as much or more to offer to the enterprising man, under any government, save that of Lopez.—(See affidavit of Hale.)

It may well be supposed that we did not voluntarily abandon such brilliant prospects; that from no will of ours the fruits of this enterprise have turned to ashes on our lips. But it might excite surprise in a mind not familiar with the character and policy of the government of Paraguay, that its government should wantonly break up and destroy an enterprise so fraught with benefit to that country; but to one who has traced its presumptuous folly in the rejection of our treaty and its attack upon the Water Witch, it will be no surprise that it has treated American citizens with more indignity and wrong than it offered to the American government, or that toward our enterprise its conduct at last has been that of highhanded outrage, spoliation, and destruction.

To those familiar with its policy by residence in those countries, to such men as Captain Page and the French chargé, Guillemot, whose statements are before the committee, its conduct towards us is capable of easy solution; and they speak not merely their own

opinions, but, as they tell us, the concurrent voice of all in those countries who venture to express an independent opinion. The cause, indeed, of the conduct of Lopez is found in two facts: first, that his government is that of an absolute despotism, and his policy one of selfish and grasping monopoly. His government, a titular republic, but a real despotism, greatly resembles the system of Dr. Francia in its absolute character. Lopez issues his decrees from time to time, as he pleases, proclaims them by trumpeters in the streets, posts them up in two public places, and calls them the supreme law of the land. He has what is called a council and a congress, but the power of no emperor in christendom is more absolute than that of Lopez. In fact, the official correspondence in the Department of State, from sources most favorable to him, proves, and constantly asserts, that the president is the government of Paraguay.

He has departed from the policy of Dr. Francia, in his system of exclusion, but has only changed it; so that by his public decrees he invites foreign enterprise and intelligence to his country, and then endeavors to appropriate the benefit of the improvements and the wealth they bring to the coffers of himself and family. The Commercial Relations, vol. 1, published by our government, show some of the decrees of monopoly which he has issued, and the frivolous reasons which he gives for them.

In these facts we find the motives of his conduct, for our success excited his jealousy. The great profits of our business tempted his selfish monopolizing spirit. He applied to our leading operatives in the cigar business, already carried on by us extensively in Asuncion, to leave our employment and establish works for him.—(See affidavits of Morales, Font, Orihuela and others, taken on the spot.) They refused; and when, afterwards, he broke up the establishment, and forbade the employes to work longer for us, though they then had eight hundred and twenty-five dollars of advance wages from us, he had not the shame to wait for our withdrawal from the country, but immediately employed the operatives we had trained in a cigar factory in the name of his son Binancio. He rewards himself further, for the manufacture of these cigars in imitation of those of Havana, (some of our men were Cubans,) with freedom from export duty, (manufactured tobacco pays 15 per cent. export duty,) and fifty cents premium per thousand cigars from the national treasury.

We will now examine the methods he employed for the destruction of our enterprise.

In the first place, look at the decrees he published; in the second place, at his action against us; first indirect through the populace, and then direct and conclusive through his officials.

The despotism of the government and its monopolizing spirit are certainly no excuse for its violation of its own published decrees, to which we referred in the opening of our statement, and upon the faith of which we acted; or for its appropriation of the processes and improvements whose introduction he favored by acts as well as by decrees, but whose continued use and profits he has taken from us, and given, a part, at least, to his son.—(See Page's statement.)

The government of Paraguay proceeded to issue certain decrees re-

voking the title to lands in San Antonio, imposing regulations and impossible conditions in the conduct of our business, and divesting us of the privileges we had theretofore enjoyed. Some of these decrees we append, that the committee may see at once their frivolous, arbitrary, and *ex post facto* character, and that it was impossible, under them, to carry on our business in the country, since, by the 5th article of the decree of August 26, 1854, it is provided that "all meetings of foreigners, except for the ostensible object of visiting and innocent diversions, are forbidden by day and by night." Nor could they any longer purchase land for the prosecution of their enterprise, for by the 9th "the sale of lands to foreigners is prohibited until further orders."

The 12th, 13th, and 14th articles show also the *animus* of the government, which is not at all relieved by the vague promise in the 15th. The decree revoking the title of the San Antonio lands, admitting, for argument sake, the recital of facts which we do not, however, for a moment concede to be true, (the chief of which we will soon consider,) is open to these remarks: that the government took no exception to the act of its own officer ratifying the sale until the lapse of some five months; nor does it provide for the restoration of the land to the alleged owner, but the same is to be secured to the use of the government; nor was any compensation made to the company for their large expenditures and improvements upon it.

One of the chief reasons set up by Lopez for his conduct is the charge of fraud in procuring the title to a portion of the San Antonio lands. This is set up in his message to his congress, under date of 14th March, 1854, as well as in his decrees.

The charge is, that the mother of the minors who owned a portion of the land was induced to give the deed by the representation of our agent; that Lopez had authorized the execution of the deed without the ratification of the defender general of minors. Fortunately for us, the original document in our possession disproves this accusation. (We append a copy.) It recites in full the facts as they occurred, showing the technical legality of the sale and liberal price paid, more to the minors than the adults. No one ever complained but Lopez. He endeavored to obtain possession of the deeds, and forbade them to be carried from the country, refusing permits or passports, until Commander Page having announced that he should take the Americans away "forcibly if he must," Lopez submitted. So as to the mensuration, no one ever asked for it. But these pretenses are frivolous, as well as false, when offered in justification of his spoliation of so much property, built up under his eye and by his assistance in selling the materials and labor we used, and upon the faith of deeds bearing his rubric or seal of ratification. The provision with regard to the employment of laborers and peons practically deprived the agents of the company from availing themselves, after its publication, of any form of native labor.

There was another method of attack upon the company through the insults and abuse from the populace. Upon the first arrival in the country the people, like the government, treated the agents and employés with marked and uniform kindness. Gradually this course

of conduct changed, and insults, such as shouting after them in the streets, calling reproachful names, climbing up to the windows of the houses, throwing orange peels, cigars, and missiles into the rooms, &c., &c., were incessant.

Complaint was made of this conduct to the police, and soldiers were stationed at the houses for protection. But the insults and abuse were more extreme and violent when the soldiers were guarding them than before. (As to this abuse, see affidavits of Hines, Morales, and others.) Of this character, and springing from the same source, came the attack upon the brother of the consul, our agent, when riding with a lady in the vicinity of Asuncion. Our people were also exposed to abusive articles in the *Seminario*, the official gazette of Paraguay.

In reference to the excessively abusive articles of the *Seminario* for a term of four months, the "*Comercio del Plata*," of Montevideo, a journal founded by the illustrious Argentine, D. Florencia Varela, said, "that some of them were written in such a repugnant manner that, through respect to decency, one ought to abstain from reproducing them."—(See *Seminario*, No. 68.) The "*Tribuna*," of Buenos Ayres, (editorial of October 12, 1854,) also, in speaking of the language of Lopez in the *Seminario*, said: "In it he (Lopez) has used the dirtiest and most obscene language which has ever come from the mouth of any government." We might offer many proofs of the truth of these remarks, taken at random from the columns of the *Seminario*, and from official decrees signed by Lopez, and official notes signed by his secretary of state, but all bearing unmistakable internal evidence of his own head and hand. These diatribes were often directed against Americans in all parts of the world.—(See *Seminarios*, Nos. 67, 68, 69, 70, 83, 92, 94, some of which are exclusively devoted to this favorite topic.)

It was not by such methods alone that our enterprise was broken up and our agents expelled from the country. More summary and efficient measures were adopted by Lopez—nothing less than the actual presence of his officials in our cigar factories, mills, and workshops, forbidding the Paraguayans to work for us, closing all our establishments, and ordering the fences and sheds to be destroyed by fire. The evidence, in detail, of this forcible expulsion from our works, is contained in the affidavits of Ferguson, Boyd, and Morales, taken on the spot.

Lopez, through his officials, when in the very act of forcibly closing our workshops, declared "that the government did not care for the gilded guns of the Americans, but was prepared for any emergency that might arise."—(See close of Morales' affidavit.)

We ask leave to submit some statements regarding the resources and property of Lopez, from which redress for these injuries may be easily obtained.

The property of Lopez, or of the government of Paraguay, which is composed of himself and family, is enormously large. He owns hundreds of square leagues of land and thousands of cattle, more than one-half of all the houses in the city of Asuncion, now containing nearly 25,000 inhabitants. Stores open in Asuncion, and in every

other town in the country. He monopolizes the preparation and sale of the yerba maté, of which alone is exported above 175,000 arrobas per annum, and half as much more consumed in the country. (An arroba is twenty-five pounds.) Upon the yerba maté sold in Buenos Ayres he makes a profit of over six hundred per cent. He monopolizes also the manufacture of cigars in imitation of those of Havana, and rewards himself with a freedom of export duty upon them, and fifty cents premium per thousand from the national treasury, as before stated. He also owns all the tanneries in the country, and exports, by decree, his leather free from export duties. These two last articles, namely, hides and tobacco, manufactured, pay 15 and 16 per cent. export duty. He is largely engaged in commerce with England, to the amount of millions per annum.

The following is the list of the steamers he is known to have had on the rivers on the date of 15th September last, all of which have been placed there since ours, which was the first upon those waters:

	Name.	Tons.	Horse power.	Where built.
Man-of-war.....	Tacuaré.....	400	180	England.
Mer., propeller....	Rio Blanco.....	900	150	France.
Mer., side wheel...	Rio Negro.....	200	60	England.
Mer., side wheel...	Ipora.....	250	70	Paraguay.
Mer., side wheel...	Saltode Guayra	200	80	Paraguay.
Mer., side wheel...	Pampero (inn)	700	250	England.

Two others on the stocks in Paraguay. Engines, constructions and engineers all English.

It is not difficult to perceive that Lopez has taken for himself the navigation of his rivers, opened by the labors of others, and the action of the United States government, to the flags of all nations, in its treaty with the Argentine Confederation, of 10th July, 1853, and called "a treaty for the free navigation of the rivers Parana and Paraguay," and by subsequent treaty between Brazil and Paraguay, in 1856, opening these rivers to the commerce of the world. It is Lopez's infractions of this treaty which are the cause of the demonstrations against him at present threatened by Brazil.

Notwithstanding his narrow and selfish policy, the trade of the country is rapidly on the increase; for three years, from 1854 to 1857, by his own returns, it increased four-fold. And though commerce is carried on chiefly with him, or with houses in which he is interested, the number of arrivals at Asuncion in the single year 1854 was 160.

Could his spirit of selfish monopoly be broken, or could he be truly wise for his own interests, the commerce of Paraguay would be indefinitely increased. Its tea, capable with improved preparation of a near approach in quality to that of China, grows wild and in exhaustless abundance upon the hills of Paraguay. Its rare cabinet and dye-woods, with hides and tobacco, are already large articles of export to Europe.

And more than her own resources, are those of Bolivia and the rich provinces of Brazil, on the upper waters of these rivers, which must pass her gateway. These countries are inviting the commerce of the

world, and nothing but the policy of Paraguay excludes our American enterprise and commerce from their natural share.

Brazil is demanding her rights. It needs but the show of those "gilded guns of the Americans," and *our* rights will be promptly conceded. Time and iniquity are pressing heavily upon Lopez, and he must soon disappear from the political world.

The hand that shall first break his prestige and his power will be a hand of blessing to his people and to the world.

SAMUEL G. ARNOLD, *President.*

STEPHEN G. MASON, *Treasurer.*

RUFUS WATERMAN,

LEWIS P. CHILD,

W. M. BAILEY,

N. F. POTTER, per R. W.,

Committee appointed by vote of the Company.

Affidavit of William E. Hines.

William E. Hines, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith :

I am a citizen of the United States. I was for two years, from March, 1853, to May, 1855, the general cashier of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, and sailed from the United States with the first expedition, and was for about ten months a resident of Paraguay. I went there with Mr. E. A. Hopkins, on his first trip after he was named consul to Paraguay. He was received in a very flattering manner by the president of that republic in the presence of nearly all the Americans in the country, including the commissioned officers of the United States steamer *Water Witch*. Many favors were allowed him by the president and people. Indeed, upon our first arrival the people of the country tried every way in their power to show us attentions, treating us kindly and hospitably, and doing all in their power to make our stay among them as agreeable as possible. From their treatment we inferred that the government favored us and our expedition, and were our friends; for, in that country no native dare act as friend or foe without first receiving his lesson from his superiors. Gradually their kind treatment was changed, first from neglect to annoyance, and from annoyance to insults, till it became almost impossible to live in Paraguay with any comfort at all. Spies were about us to catch every word we might utter, and to watch us about our daily avocations, to repeat to their superiors every word, every act, no matter how trivial. Insults of various kinds were offered the American residents. My wife, a native of the United States, was some months resident with me in Paraguay. Her health was very delicate, and the annoyances and insults she was obliged to suffer had a serious effect upon her health. People have tried to pull her from her horse by catching at her habit when riding rapidly. Our house was beset with a crowd of native rabble, who would throw into our windows sand, stones, bones, oranges, or anything that was

within their reach. Upon trying to find the offenders, all would profess innocence. These things became so aggravating that I applied to the police for protection. A show of compliance was made. A guard of soldiers was stationed under my windows one evening, but that evening there were more missiles thrown into my windows than at any one time before, and of a more dangerous character, which, of course, led me to suppose that they were projected by the very soldiers themselves.

Paraguay is, nominally, a republic; but it is well known that President Lopez is the head and front of all that is done in the country. His power is as absolute as that of the Czar in Russia. He controls the most valuable commerce of the country by monopolies, and the government (Lopez) is by far the greatest merchant of the republic.

The United States and Paraguay Navigation Company had taken out merchandise for sale, agricultural implements, and valuable machinery for operating. A saw mill had been put in operation, and was doing a profitable business. A cigar manufactory, employing more than a hundred hands, had been some months in operation, and was proving as successful as the most sanguine could wish; and favorable opportunities were only wanting to start all our machinery. Upon first commencing in Paraguay the government, through the judges of peons, provided us with peons for our mechanical department, women and other laborers for our cigar factory, &c., &c. These laborers, from being the most humble and servile of dependants, gradually began to assume importance, and, through them, could we perceive the feelings towards Americans, from day to day, of those in power.

Our interests were valuable, and had not our operations been suspended in the manner they were, without adding one dollar of capital from home to what we had at sailing, I doubt not would now be worth to us in Paraguay not less than six hundred thousand dollars. This estimate does not include two steamers and a sailing vessel, merchandise, and machinery, subsequently sent from the United States by our company before they had received information of the gradual change of policy towards us in Paraguay.

The government of Paraguay possesses ample means, in silver and gold, to pay any demand our government may make upon them for reclamations, for damages and losses to our company; and, in the opinion of deponent, if two or three small vessels-of-war were sent to Paraguay to enforce the demand, there would be no difficulty in getting it settled.

Deponent further declares that had he had control of the two small steamers aforementioned, and a business been established with them between Paraguay and adjoining provinces, he would not, even at so early a day as this, have sold the business for four hundred thousand dollars. Their business would have been almost unlimited and the profits enormous.

WM. E. HINES.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
 Rhode Island District, } ss.

In the city of Providence, this 10th day of August, A. D. 1857
 subscribed and sworn before me.

JAMES W. PECKHAM,
*Commissioner of the circuit court of the United States
 for said Rhode Island district to take affidavits, bail, &c.*

Affidavit of Wm M. Hale.

The undersigned, a native of this city, thirty-five years of age, and a graduate of Brown University, accompanied the second expedition sent out by the United States Paraguay Navigation Company, sailing from this port, on the 28th of June, A. D. 1854, in the schooner E. T. Blodgett, owned and freighted by said company. The freight consisted of two steamers, two saw mills, cotton gin, steam boilers, and other machinery, designed for operation in Paraguay, besides several invoices of merchandise for the company's warehouse. The expedition was accompanied by competent ship builders, engineers, and other mechanics, including an experienced millwright.

Upon our arrival at Buenos Ayres we learned the position of affairs in Paraguay—the news of the rupture between Mr. Hopkins and President Lopez having just reached that city. In consequence of this rupture we were compelled to put up our steamers at the river Tigre, distant about twenty miles from Buenos Ayres, instead of proceeding direct to Asuncion, as we at first intended.

The steamers were, respectively, of 100 and 150 tons burden. The larger was originally planned and constructed for the navigation of the upper waters of the Parana and Paraguay rivers, her light draught rendering her especially adapted for shoal water. But as the company had at the time no larger steamer suitable for the navigation of the main river as far down as Buenos Ayres, they contemplated placing the schooner on the lower route, and forming a connexion with the steamer at Rosario, or some similar port, until such time as they could build or purchase a large steamer to take the place of the schooner, and then to transfer the steamer to the route from Asuncion to the upper provinces of Bolivia and Brazil. These provinces had not then been opened to commerce, and their only mode of reaching the sea-board was either by crossing the Andes to the Pacific coast, or by the overland route to Rio Janeiro. Each of these journeys was tedious and expensive, thus rendering the produce of the provinces of little value in the home market, so that it could have been bought by the agents of the company at such prices as, with their facilities for bringing to market by means of their steamers, would have yielded them enormous profits, besides opening a wide field for the introduction of the manufactures of our country. In addition to this, the government of Bolivia had offered a large bounty, both in land and money, besides valuable commercial privileges, to the first line of steamers that should be successfully established between that country and the Atlantic coast; all of which would have been secured by the company had the agreement entered into by President Lopez been fulfilled.

At the time of our arrival the only steamers on the river were some old English and American propellers, which were built for ocean navigation, and were poorly adapted for navigating the river, being very slow and of deep draught. As soon as our steamer was completed, she was placed on the route between Buenos Ayres and Corrientes, the highest point we could reach without entering Paraguay, and at once monopolized the travel on that section of the river. Although but a small steamer, and in some respects a third or fourth rate vessel, she did a profitable business. The price of passage at that time from Buenos Ayres to Rosario, a distance of 300 miles, was twenty-four dollars; and from the former point to Asuncion, a distance of about 1,000 miles, eighty dollars. This distance could easily have been accomplished by a first class steamer in three or four days. But allowing a fortnight for the round trip from Buenos Ayres to Asuncion and back, and estimating the number of passengers at only fifty each way, with a proportionate amount of freight, and the gross receipts for a single trip would amount to \$15,000. Deduct one-half of this for expenses, and the net earnings of such a steamer for one year would have amounted to \$195,000. This estimate is based upon the actual amount of travel on the river, which would, doubtless, have been greatly increased with the improved facilities for transportation, as it has been in all similar instances.

During my residence in Buenos Ayres I saw large quantities of Paraguayan lumber, all the provinces on the river being supplied with heavy timber from that source. The wood, in its general character, partakes of the nature of other tropical woods. It is generally heavy, compact, durable, and susceptible of a high polish, and is in general use for building purposes, as well as for cabinet work. The cedar of Paraguay, which is highly prized, is lighter than the other kinds of wood, and in its grain and finish strongly resembles the finer descriptions of mahogany, though much lighter than that wood. All this lumber was sawed by hand, leaving the surface very uneven and irregular, and unfit for market. Had the company been permitted to put their large saw mills into operation in Paraguay, the profits from this branch of business must have been incalculable, as the timber, notwithstanding the government monopoly, could have been bought at very low rates, and the superior product of their mills would have insured them the command of the market.

But, without the protection and favor of the government, which is an absolute despotism, none of these advantages could be secured. The president, though elected by the people, is supreme dictator, not only in all matters connected with the government, but also in all the private relations of its subjects, and no important trade can be carried on in his dominions without his consent and co-operation. Whilst, by law, enjoying a monopoly of the trade in timber and yerba, the two principal products of the country, he exercises a controlling influence in all matters of trade between his own subjects and foreigners.

A general system of espionage is established throughout the country and the adjoining provinces, even as far as Buenos Ayres, and any act committed by a resident of the country which meets his displeasure is promptly and effectually punished; if a native, by fine or im-

prisonment, and if a foreigner, he is driven from the country under one of the many pretexts which are never wanting to a despotic mind. This is fully illustrated by the system of petty annoyances adopted towards the agents of our company, and which no native of Paraguay would dare to perpetrate without the direct sanction of the government.

These facts are matters of general notoriety throughout the Spanish American provinces of the La Plata, and are gathered from frequent conversations with intelligent residents of Buenos Ayres, some of them being natives of Paraguay who had been compelled to leave their country from similar causes.

WM. M. HALE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, }
Rhode Island District, } ss.

In the city of Providence, on this 1st day of September, A. D. 1857, sworn to and subscribed by the said William M. Hale, personally known to me to be the signer of the foregoing statement or affidavit.

JAMES W. PECKHAM,

*Commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States
for said Rhode Island district to take affidavits, bail, etc.*

Decree of August 26, 1854.

ASSUMPTION, August 26, 1854.

Considering that some contraband trade has been discovered on the lower coasts, and some attempts have been made against public order and against the high respect due to the national authorities, it is resolved and decreed:

Article 1st. From the publication of this decree, every vessel which descends to the exterior will carry two officers of guard—the one to continue to the village of Pilar, and the other to be relieved at the ports Villeta and the villages of Oliva and Villa Franca; each guard relieved will return by post to his respective destination. This resolution will be observed in the same manner in all vessels ascending from the exterior.

2d. It is declared that pistols, all kinds of tucks, knives and cudgels are prohibited arms. Whoever is found with these arms in the streets will deliver them to the commissaries of police or to the commanders of rounds and patrols, warning being given to the owner to present himself at the police to give satisfaction for the infraction of this regulation.

3d. Every foreign officer who may have presented himself to that end to the government of the republic can use a sword by day and by night, having on his uniform.

4th. If, unfortunately, any person that should be found with prohibited arms should refuse to give them up, according to the terms of the preceding second article, and should proceed to make use of his

arms, he will be disarmed and conducted to the chief of police for his arrest; whilst the corresponding information is remitted to the government, it being well understood that the soldiers of the republic in commission and of the police are not to be without their arms across.

5th. All meetings of foreigners, except for the ostensible object of visiting and innocent diversion, are forbidden by day and by night.

6th. Every crew of foreign vessels accidentally being in the ports of the capital will retire to their vessels at sunset, and only with express permission of the captain of the port will any particular exception be made to this order in their cases.

7th. The existing order is hereby reproduced, that, half an hour after tattoo beating, all traffic in the streets will cease, with the caution that those persons who are under a necessity of going out from their houses after that hour will take lanterns with them; and that the provision is not in force in cases of public balls and general assemblies on fast days, since the appropriate police orders are in this respect already given.

8th. The public use of arms for shooting birds, at convenient hours, will continue as heretofore.

9th. The sale of lands to foreigners is prohibited until further orders.

10th. Preference will be given to the right of the state to purchase lands on the bank of rivers, in case an intention of alienating them exists.

11th. Every sale of lands, without the requisites of law, will be held null and void.

12th. Every foreigner who may have land legitimately acquired, but without judicial possession and demarcation, measurement and landmarks, will solicit from the government these requisites within six days after the publication of this decree.

13th. Every industrial or commercial factory unlicensed will be shut, if the persons interested do not take out a license within three days.

14th. The use of any foreign commercial firm in the republic is forbidden, without the express knowledge of the supreme government.

15th. Any manufacturing or commercial company can be established in the republic, those concerned presenting themselves, in the customary form, to the government, and will find adequate protection.

And, that it may reach the knowledge of all, let this be communicated to all concerned; let it be published by edict in the customary form, and also in the Seminario de Avisos.

Assumption, August 26, 1854, the forty-second year of the national independence.

CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ.

JOSÉ FALCON.

Considering the public convenience of maintaining in force, with respect to the hire of Paraguay day laborers, the existing regulations of the port of this capital concerning the wages of mariners by the

month or the voyage, in order to avoid contentions, it is resolved and decreed :

ARTICLE 1. For the present, and until otherwise ordained, every contract of foreigners with Paraguay laborers for any class of labor and occupation, will be made out by a simple document.

ART. 2. This regulation will be in force in contracts of thirty days and upwards, and will be put in execution eight days after the publication of the present decree. And, that it may come to the knowledge of all, let it be published by edict in the customary form, and also in the Seminario de Avisos.

Assumption, August 25, 1854, the forty-second year of the national independence.

CARLOS ANTONIO LOPEZ.

JOSÉ FALCON.

[Translation.]

Fifth seal of stamped paper for the year 1854.

ARMS OF PARAGUAY.—LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY !

In the city of Asuncion, capital of the republic of Paraguay, on the 11th day of March, 1854, before me, the notary ad interim of the civil court, and the witnesses who subscribe, personally appeared in my office Mrs. Dña. Elenteria Bedoya, widow of Don Ramon Thomas Zelada, and legitimate guardian of her children, (minor,) José Joaquin, and Maria Dolores Inocencia Zelada, a native and inhabitant of this capital, in whom I place full credit and know ; and she said, that, having bargained with the señor general agent of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, Don Edward Augustus Hopkins, to sell him a piece of land situated in the district of San Antonio, composed of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cuerdas, (cuerda is about 83 yards,) front to the east upon the public road which leads from the capital to the country, and from thence in depth to the river Paraguay, for the sum of thirty dollars each cuerda ; but that, for the greater formality and security of this contract, she wished to verify it, with the consent of the general defender of minors, (judge of orphans,) because the said land belongs to her said two minor children. By virtue of this request, I caused advice thereof to be given to the señor defender general of minors, who having come in person to this act, and being informed of all which the señora widow had said with the view of the documents of the said lands which we had then present, he, the defender general, said that he agreed, in the name of the above said minors, that they could sell the said land to the general agent for the sum of thirty dollars each cuerda, because that the sale which was about to be verified was only a part of the lands inherited by the minors, the greater part in depth yet remaining to them on the opposite side of the road ;*

* See plan.

and, also, that the co-heirs of the said minors have sold to the same señor general agent equal portions cut off, also, from the same body of land for the sum of twenty-five dollars the cuerda, which was the price to the original purchaser who paid it, although it included the portion of land on the other side of the road which is now dismembered, and remains to the sellers, as the above cited documents prove; and which, with due attention to the conformity and unanimity of these reflections, on the part of the defender general and the widow, this latter said that, by this present and public writing, she grants and confesses that she sells and gives in formal sale, from now forever, in the name of the above cited minor children in favor of the above expressed señor general agent, Don Edward Augustus Hopkins, or of those in whom may legitimately fall the right to this instrument, the above named piece of arable land, situate in the department of San Antonio, which the above expressed children possessed by paternal inheritance according as the already cited documents stated, which I have returned to the widow, because they contain even a yet greater portion of land which remains with the minors. The land sold is composed of $2\frac{1}{2}$ cuerdas, in latitude and in longitude, all the distance which is found by its formal and judicial recognition between the lines which limit it, which are east, front on the public road which passes through the district of San Antonio from the capital, and continues onward to the country. The opposite front, to the west, is on the river Paraguay, with the same latitude, or breadth, &c., &c.—(Simple old Spanish form of documents for real estate.)

Manuel Morales, being duly sworn, presents his documents of full naturalization as a citizen of the United States, issued by the supreme court of New York, October 23, 1851. He deposeth and saith: I am a native of the island of Cuba, and a naturalized citizen of the United States. I have read the note of the United States consul to the Paraguayan government, July 25, and know that part of it which relates to insults to American citizens generally, for many months past, to be true. I have been several times insulted myself, by cries in the streets, calling me brute, and barbaro, and carcaman. I am a merchant, in business in this city, and director of the cigar factory of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company. I have been three times, twice to the chief of police and once to the judge of the peace of the district, as interpreter, with Mr. Hines, the general cashier of said company, now absent, to complain of bones, orange peels, sand, stones, &c., being thrown in at the windows of the agency. No alteration of the annoyances was experienced by these complaints. Propositions have been made to me by Nicolas Vasquez, the confidential judge of peace and man of all work of President Lopez, to seduce me from said company, promising me, on the part of the government, all facilities which I might want to carry on the business, for myself, of the cigar factory, provided I would leave the employ of the said company. I went in person to the collector of the port, and procured, upon the official stamp, price fifty cents, permission for Mr. John Peterson to embark his baggage at San Antonio, which I delivered to Mr. Peterson. I requested the consul to apply to the government for permission to whip the apprentice boys in the

cigar factory, in order to correct their laziness and bad habits; the punishments were asked for because without them it was impossible to keep order in the factory, and the punishments which the government states the consul asked for at my request are the usual punishments in vogue throughout all the country. I have had cigar women saved, through my intercession, from arbitrary corporal punishment by the justices of peace. I have never sent in the name of the consul to the chief of police, nor do I know of any one who has done so, to have peons and to sweep out the cigar factory. I have sole immediate control over the factory, and the consul, in his capacity of general agent of the company, has confined himself to giving me general instructions. I was educated in Providence, and have been for several years in commercial business in the city of New York.

MANUEL MORALES.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn before me this 19th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. s.]

United States Consul.

George M. Boyd, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: I am an American naturalized citizen. I was born in Ireland, and came to the United States before I came of age; having resided in the United States for twelve years. I am an engineer in the employ of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, and left the United States under the American flag, on board the steamer El Paraguay. I have lived at the establishment of said company for the last nine months, at San Antonio. I have never witnessed any maltreatment of the peons, and never knew of permission being refused them to remain there when sick; on the contrary, inducements have been held out to them to remain on the premises under such circumstances. They have always had plenty to eat. Their general character was bad. They have always been very lazy and insolent, and frequently left the ground without permission, and contrary to orders. I have read the note of the United States consul, of 25th July, to the Paraguayan government, and know his complaints of insults to American citizens generally to be true. I myself have been frequently hooted at on the public highway. I was present at San Antonio when Mr. Peterson embarked his baggage. The document marked A 1 is the official licence under which the baggage was embarked. It was brought to San Antonio by Mr. Peterson, and left there to be handed to the judge of peace. I handed it to him the first time he came to the house, and he said that it was none of his business; that it belonged to the gefe. The gefe never came for it, and it subsequently became mislaid, and has been but recently found. No inquiry of any sort was ever made after the document by the government officers, to my knowledge.

GEORGE M. BOYD.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn before me this twenty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. S.]
United States Consul.

Manuel Morales, a citizen of the United States, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: This morning, Monday, August 28, Mr. Nicolas Vasquez, justice of the peace of the district of Encarnacion, gave me a verbal order to close the cigar factory of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, of which I am director. I immediately communicated this order to the American consul, who sent a communication to the said Vasquez. The consul also gave me orders not to yield to verbal orders, but only to force or other competent authority. On my return from the custom-house, at half-past 9 a. m., where I had been to procure some letters, I found the cigar factory closed, and inquiring by what authority it had been done, I was told by Messrs. Font and Oritruela, my assistants, that it had been done personally by the said Nicolas Vasquez, who himself dismissed the women, and directed the doors to be shut up, as by order of the supreme government. When said Vasquez ordered me to shut up the factory in the morning, he said, further, that the government did not care for the gilded guns of the Americans, but was prepared for any emergency that might arise.

MANUEL MORALES.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn before me this 28th day of August, A. D. 1854.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. S.]
United States Consul.

José Font, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: This morning, August 28, 1854, about nine o'clock, Nicolas Vasquez, judge of peace of Encarnacion, came to the cigar factory of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, of which I am one of the foremen, and asked me why the people were still working. I replied that I could not order work to be stopped without directions from the general agent of the company. To this Vasquez gave me no answer, but went into the work-room and ordered all the women and boys to get up and leave the factory, which they immediately did, and the doors were closed by Mr. Oritruela. After this Vasquez likewise left.

JOSÉ FONT.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn before me this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. S.]
United States Consul.

Rafael Oritruela, being duly sworn, deposeeth and saith: This morning, August 28, 1854, Nicholas Vasquez, judge of peace of Encarnacion, came, about nine o'clock, to the factory of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, where I am employed as one of the foremen. Said Vasquez said to me that, by order of the supreme government, the factory must be shut up and all the workmen and women must leave. I told him that my orders were not to shut up until forced to do so by some competent authority. He, the said Vasquez, then ordered the workmen to leave the establishment, and afterwards went into the back yard and ordered all the boys who were stripping tobacco to go likewise. When the work people were all gone Vasquez likewise left, and I closed the door.

RAFAEL ORITRUELA.

CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
In Paraguay.

Sworn before me this twenty-eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. s.]
United States Consul.

Manuel Morales, being duly sworn, deposeeth and saith: This morning, Saturday, September 9, 1854, the chief of police sent for me at half-past six o'clock to meet him at the cigar factory of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company. When I arrived there I found him with a soldier. He ordered me to take down the sign of the cigar factory, personally, which I refused to do unless I received orders so to do from the general agent of the company. The chief of police said that he did not recognize the general agent, and that if I did not take it down he would take me to prison. The "Water Witch" being absent, and having no protection, I could only order the sign to be taken down. It was then forced into my hands, and I was obliged by the soldier to carry it to the station house, and there deliver it to the chief of police. But I declare that I did it only by force, and not willingly, as he could wish to make it appear.

MANUEL MORALES.

Sworn to before me this ninth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.

George M. Boyd, being duly sworn, deposeeth and saith: I am an engineer in the employ of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company and engaged in running the steam saw-mill of said company at San Antonio. Last night, Monday, September 4, 1854, the work

people employed at the mill declared that they could not work any more, as the gefe of the department was coming to-day to discharge them. This morning, September 5, they all refused to work but one, who continued at his post, until eleven o'clock a. m., when the gefe came to the mill and asked how many persons we had. W. Ferguson, the mill-wright replied but one. The gefe said that we could not work any more without permission of the President, where upon he discharged the peon, and we were obliged to stop the mill.

GEORGE M. BOYD.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn to before me this fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. S.]
United States Consul.

Alexander Ferguson, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith : That on Monday night, September 4, 1854, the peons at work at the saw-mill of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, of which I am mill-wright, came to me and said that they could not work any more by order of the judge of the peace. I then paid them what was due. Next morning there was only one who was willing to work, who asked me if I did not want his help. Another said he would work if I made a private contract with him and did not allow it to be known, as, if it got out, he was afraid of the consequences. We kept the mill at work until about 11 o'clock a. m., at which time several soldiers came down and demanded my presence at the house with all the peons who were at work on the place. I went to the house and found the gefe of the department, with a number of soldiers and peons. The gefe questioned me as to the number of peons then at work. I replied but one, and that the rest had refused to work and left the premises. He talked some time with the peon in Guarain, and the peon interpreted that he could not work any more without permission of the President. It is my impression that the gefe said the same ; but not understanding him very well, I cannot be certain. Immediately after dinner, the father of the woman who cooked for us, came to the house and said that he was obliged to take his daughter away by order of the judge of peace and chief, and went off with her in a great hurry, saying he was afraid to stay any longer than was necessary. Being then left entirely without help by order of the government, we had to stop the mill and I had to cook my own supper. In reference to the machinery of the said company at San Antonio, it is very heavy, and utterly impossible to remove it at present, without help of any kind.

ALEX. FERGUSON.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE IN PARAGUAY.

Sworn to before me this sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDWARD A. HOPKINS, [L. S.]
United States Consul.

Alexander Ferguson, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: I was mill-wright and major domo of the establishment of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, at San Antonio. About half-past seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, September 12, Judge Vasquez presented himself to me at the outer gate of the house at San Antonio, and asked me if Don Eduardo (Mr. Hopkins) had come there that morning or the evening previous. On being answered in the negative, he replied that he (Mr. Hopkins) had promised to be there, or write, by eight o'clock that morning, for the purpose of taking an account of the property there. He retired thereafter, on saying that he would return in a short time. Soon thereafter Mr. Morales arrived with a note to me from Mr. Hopkins, and one enclosed to Judge Vasquez. Vasquez returned, and after a lengthy conversation with Mr. Morales, which Morales interpreted to me, the result was that Vasquez refused positively to take an inventory or any account of the property beyond the line of the two and one-half cuerdas mentioned by him, as being the positive extent of his instructions from his government. A cuerda is about eighty-three yards or varas Spanish. But Vasquez promised to make a note in the inventory of anything on the remaining portion of the land or premises. This promise he afterwards refused to fulfill. About three p. m., Vasquez, with several government officers and other attendants, returned to the house and informed me that they were ready to take an account of the heavy pieces of machinery in and around the house, that they might be removed early the next morning. He did so, leaving at dark, after saying that he would return on the morrow with sufficient force to remove the property. At daylight of the 13th instant, the peons (laborers) began to assemble outside of the fence. About sunrise Judge Vasquez arrived with his attendants. A portion of the fences were torn up to open a new and shorter road. Afterwards more than a hundred peons inundated the house and back yard, and some forty ox-carts assembled near the house. They immediately removed the machinery, the judge checking off the articles as they passed him. We then proceeded with the inventory, including the chairs and tables which he had refused to include the evening previous. About eleven o'clock Mr. Morales, who acted all this time as interpreter, informed me that Vasquez ordered us to quit the premises immediately after concluding the inventory. This order was unexpected, as Mr. Hopkins had written to me that the decree of the Paraguayan government allowed four days to evacuate the house and premises. They carried away everything in the house and kitchen, even to the corn for the horses. As it was impossible to remain in an empty house, I made application to the chief of the department, through Mr. Morales, for the ox-carts to bring our baggage into town. It was impossible to obtain these at the customary price of 10 reals, and we were obliged to pay 14 reals, the chief saying that he had no authority in the matter. The conduct of the peons was insolent and thievish. I further state that Judge Vasquez attempted to make me sign the inventory in the middle thereof—that is to say, the portion taken the previous date. Nothing further occurred worthy of notice, after we had despatched our ox-carts, until half-past seven o'clock p. m.;

the said judge wanted me to sign an incomplete inventory of the company's property at San Antonio. I replied to him that it did not include the the whole. The judge's argument was that he only wished the evidence of what he had done, and that my signature would only certify to that extent and no further. He drew up a note at the post of the inventory to that effect, as I understand it, which I signed. I demanded an authenticated copy of the inventory. As it was then nearly nine o'clock p. m., and we had no place to sleep nor anything to eat, we were compelled to leave for the general agency of the company in town, where we arrived at eleven p. m. The copy of the inventory not being ready, the judge promised to furnish one to Mr. Morales in a short time. The judge also refused to include smoe five cords of firewood in the inventory, which were indubitably on the premises. I left the house, by the positive order of the judge, with him and his people in full possession. I forgot to state that Judge Vasquez refused to include the domestic animals, *i. e.*, horses, mules and oxen, which were on the premises of two and one-half cuerdas; the fence being torn open, they were left to wander away.

ALEXANDER FERGUSON.

Sworn to before me this fourteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDW. A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.

George M. Boyd, being duly sworn, deposes and says, as follows: I was engineer of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company's establishment at San Antonio. I have read the above deposition. I was present at the taking of the inventory of the property of said company, of which the foregoing deposition speaks. In reference to the action of Judge Vasquez, the removal of the company's property and the inventory, said deposition is correct. I also signed the incomplete inventory as above described; of the remainder of the deposition I have no knowledge.

GEORGE M. BOYD.

Sworn before me this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty four.

EDW. A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.

Manuel Morales, who has heretofore deposed in these recent difficulties, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith: I went to San Antonio at the request of Mr. Hopkins to serve as interpreter, for the purpose, as he said, of preventing Messrs. Ferguson and Boyd from signing any paper which they might not understand, and which might be intended

to deceive. I have read the foregoing deposition of Mr. Ferguson, and I declare that it is true in all its parts, which I witnessed after my arrival at San Antonio. After I delivered to Mr. Vasquez a letter from Mr. Hopkins, he sent an express rider to town. He did not take any movement until the return of the messenger, at about three o'clock, although he had promised to commence operations at one o'clock p. m. Judge Vasquez attempted, with me, to make Mr. Ferguson sign a note that he (Ferguson) only allowed him to take an inventory of the things in the house. I refused it, telling him that he well knew that Mr. Hopkins had insisted upon taking an inventory of all the property of the company at the establishment of San Antonio. Vasquez then said that the Americans were brutes and barbarians, (*brutos y barbaros*.) and that Mr. Hopkins did not care how he insulted the Paraguayan government with his crazy demands. I replied to him to moderate his language—that we were civilized people. He then ceased.

MANUEL MORALES.

Sworn to before me this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDW. A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.

Alexander Ferguson, mill-wright, and George M. Boyd, engineer, being duly sworn, depose and say, in answer to a demand from us of E. A. Hopkins, general agent of the United States and Paraguay Navigation Company, that the average day's work of about ten hours of the steam saw-mill of the said company at San Antonio would cut more than seven hundred running feet of lumber.

ALEXANDER FERGUSON,
GEORGE M. BOYD.

Sworn to before me this eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDW. A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE, *Ascension.*

Certified to by me as a true and faithful copy of the original deposition now on file in this office. In proof whereof, I have caused the seal of my consulate to be hereunto affixed, this twenty-fifth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

EDW. A. HOPKINS,
United States Consul.